Options

magazine

MARIN'S PROGRESSIVE VOICE FALL 1990 $2.00

Complimentary Copy

Brady Bevis Is Gearing Up for the Board of Supes.

Cal's Environmental Initiatives

Marine Mammal Center

Expanding San Quentin

Green Party Launched

Welcome to the second issue of *Options Magazine*, Marin's new progressive voice. *Options* was launched last summer in answer to the pressing need for a thorough, investigative approach to the issues facing our community. The magazine also acts as a bridge between the concerned citizens in this county, encouraging and promoting the various opportunties for individual contribution. The people and organizations that you will encounter in these pages demonstrate the power of involvement and service.

We were gratetful for the positive response to our premiere edition. In addition to subscriptions we have received over 40 donations in amounts ranging from $5 to $200. Every contribution, no matter how small, means a lot to us, because it tells us that you appreciate our efforts. There's no better reward than that.

Many of you sent notes along with your subscriptions, and we thank you for your kind words and for the criticism, as well. We will continue to shape our publication based on that input and welcome such comments on our work.

We will devote the bulk of our pages to giving you solid information about environmental and political issues, but we also wish to acknowledge the contributions made by those who express themselves in other ways, through art and poetry, through spritiual quests. We are reaching out to all members of the greater community of concerned people.

We live in tumultuous times, in revolutionary times. The world is changing at a rapid rate and it is all most of us can do to keep our balance during the upheaval. We need each other more than ever now, to hold each other up and give ourselves courage. We may have very different ideas about the best avenues for change, but we all agree that change must occur. We wish to represent all possible (non-violent) pathways in these pages; we are offering options. Only by drawing the connections can we paint the whole picture.

Options Magazine will be growing and changing with the needs of the times and the people. Serving our readers is our primary obligation. Your support is the foundation on which we will build.

SUBSCRIBE TO *OPTIONS*
$6 FOR ONE YEAR

This is the last free issue we will be offering. Our winter edition will be on sale at local newstands and supporting stores. By spring both the stand price and the subscription price will go up. Subscribe now and join the community of people who care and want to be informed. A pre-paid envelope is provided for your convenience. Additional donations are greatly appreciated.

Options magazine

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Many thanks to the artists and writers who generously donated their talents to this issue of Options Magazine.

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Submissions to Options should be typed and double-spaced.

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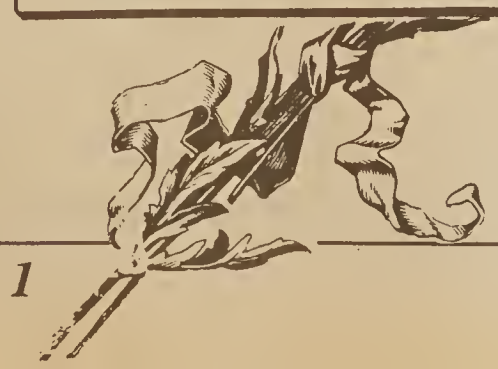

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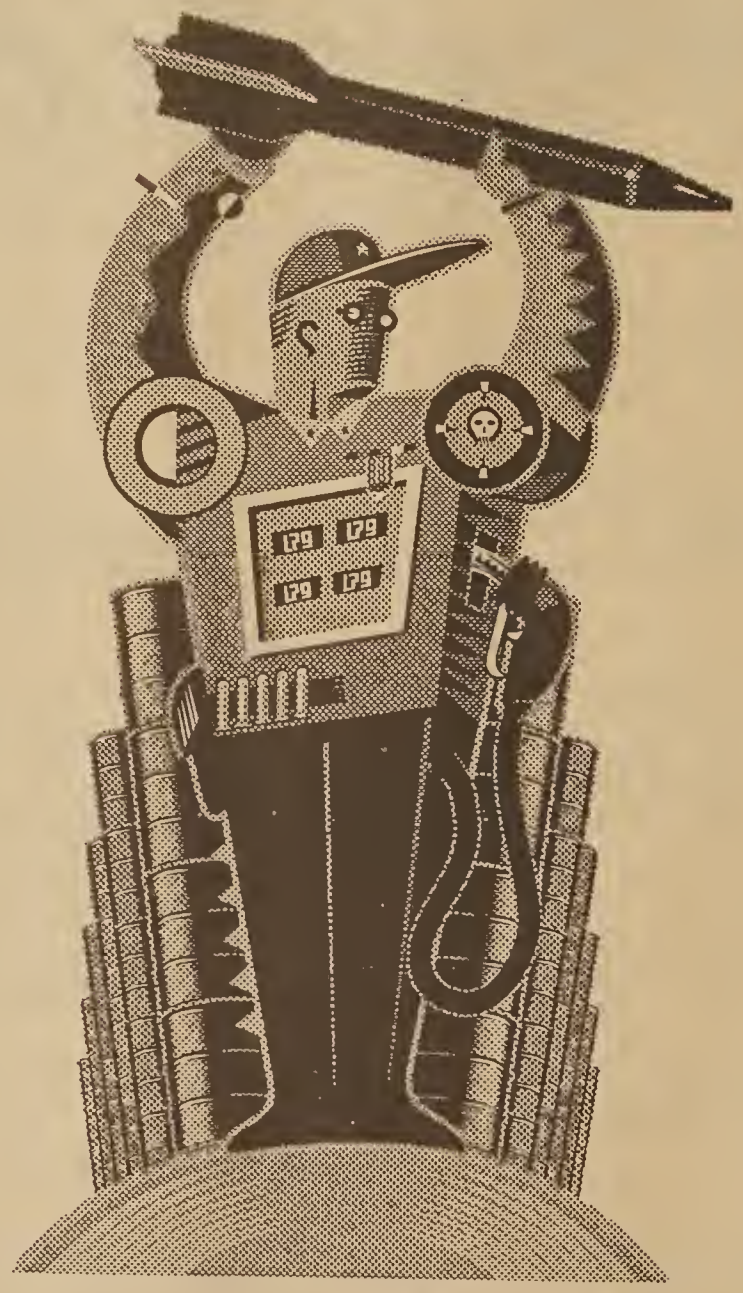


Artwork by Steve Lyons

Options in the Junk Mail

I'm loath to admit it, but I'm a sucker. At least I'm on a lot of sucker lists. The sucker list people have perfected networking into a fine art. The number of lists my name appears on expands exponentially with every worthy cause I naively contribute to, while the volume of unsolicited mail grows yet more multitudinous with each passing day.

Wading through the daily dose of appeals to solve the world's problems, a letter from the Republican National Committee came to my attention. Although I am not exactly a capital "D"

Democrat, I am even less of a Republican. I suppose my voter registration as independent gave the direct mail manipulators on the Potomac hope that they were about to reach one of those fabled swing voters. Surely those people must have money to burn!

The envelope from the GOP promised a personal communique from George Bush. While I have never deigned to be among the rich and powerful intimate with the While House, I am a compulsive reader. As it turned out, the only thing personal about the letter was the personally offensive message.

The gist of the President's missive was that the rights of private property have made major gains over social needs under Mr. Reagan. The new incumbent then pledged, in effect, to further redistribute income to the worthy wealthy through the continued penetration of the free enterprise market system into all aspects of society, both home and abroad. Be assured that Mr. Bush fully understands how the affluent need economic incentives to make money, while the rest of us cannot be pampered with too much largess lest we lose the motivation to toil. The letter ended with the observation that some fetters to the untrammeled prerogatives of private property still exist. A timely contribution to the National Committee was recommended to those who know which side of their bread gets buttered.

Setting the Republican appeal aside, I opened a second curious letter suggesting that our system is working so well that there's more than enough housing for all. The local realty conglomerate went on to assure the reader that despite an excess of available housing, manifest by a temporary slump in sales, the market mechanism is one-way elastic; prices can only go up. The value of one's house is still comfortably inflating even with demand sagging.

I stuffed the realtor's thought piece into the self-addressed and stamped envelope from the Republican appeal and mailed it. With a sweep of justice worthy of King Solomon and a recycling stratagem far surpassing those of Joe Garbarino, I sent the Republican communication off in the realtor's conveniently provided envelope.

A wondrous thing our system is...at least according to the view reflected in the junk mail. While the Soviets are stuffed into crowded apartments and have to wait 20 years to even hope of buying a house, everyone in Marin County who can afford it has a house. In fact, there are a few extra houses around without anyone wanting them enough to ante up the price. Unlike those living in welfare states, we are not faced with the galling injustice of having financial power but no place to exercise it.

There is, in fact, growing homelessness in the U.S.A., although it is not taken as a sign of some fundamental flaw in the system by our elites in power. The homeless, we are admonished in the mass media, are marginalized individuals who are outside of the market.

This is the logic and perspective of capitalism. It is a viewpoint that is blind to those beyond its profit margins as it was blind to the destruction visited upon the Soviet Union in World War II, including loss of two-thirds of its housing. That devastation was further revisited in subtler forms as the self-described capitalist world waged a relentless Cold War against the self-described socialist world, contributing to the distorted development and unfulfilled social agendas on both sides of the dichotomy.

With this in the back of my mind, I opened a third piece of unsolicited mail: a magazine for progressives who choose neither capitalism nor socialism. In the '60s, progressives in the civil rights movement used to sing "Which Side Are You On?" to chide would-be friends to join the cause. I was kind of hoping we'd be singing the same tune today. Ironically the magazine calls itself *Options*, yet appears to intimate that the struggle for socialist ideals may well be succeeded by spiritual self-cultivation. Hopefully, I am mistaken and *Options* will contribute to the social initiative.

Richard Harris
Corte Madera

An Environmentalist by Another Name

Congratulations on a good first *Options*.

Today KGO Radio's Dr. Dean Edell lamented that in his radio tapes of ten years ago he was saying the same thing that he is saying today. "We spend millions on technical fixes when good education on nutrition and exercise could give us better health for a fraction of the cost."

Your interview with Peter Calthorpe regarding his Pedestrian Pocket concept offers the "good education" that can offer affordable housing at a fraction of the societal and individual cost that continuing suburban sprawl will cost us. As your opening comment in "Why *Options"* points out, "we must let go of our narrowed vision and open to the endless possibilities yet to be created." Pedestrian Pockets do that.

Unfortunately, some organizations that have historically been granted "good guy" status don't want to open their vision to endless possibilities. Wearing blinders, they see only "growth or no growth, Democrats or Republicans."

Ironically, these organizations hang on their wall the same sign *Options* says will be its slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally." Yet, the Marin Conservation league, Marin Sierra Club and Audubon Society are against:

* building Pedestrian Pocket mixed-use communities on the rail line at St. Vincent's/Silveira, Hamilton, and Old Town Novato that can make the rail line financially successful;

* reducing reliance on the single occupant vehicle, gas consumption and air pollution by supporting the Marin Sales Tax as a first stop to implementing a regional rail transit system;

* getting hard working low and middle income families into ownership housing and thereby reduce not only their commute but the stress on California's increasingly crisis prone family system. The Economic Policy Institute says 78 million people, or 32 percent of the population, are unable to meet their non-shelter needs at a minimum level because of high housing costs. Perhaps to many who read this that seems too national in scope to matter much. Closer to home Assemblyman Bates just released a year-long legislative report showing that the California family is in crisis because of exorbitant housing costs and forced long commutes by mom and pop depriving their children of needed family time.

Walk into any Marin County affordable housing corporation and you can get first hand stories of the crisis. You can also hear first hand of their support for cost effective, innovative housing strategies such as Pedestrian Pocket developments to provide some of Marin's critically needed affordable housing.

What it seems to come down to in Marin is this: Seated in one corner as long time reigning champ are a few well-funded, well-established so-called environmentalist organizations, whose information apparatus is controlled by a few long-time, well- housed, politically savvy Marin residents. In the other corner, supported by those with little money who are not well housed and who barely know how to get through the political ropes leading to Marin's political ring, climbs those underfunded affordable housing producers who only know how to call a spade a spade. The environmentalists want to "talk about" affordable housing while adding to Marin's 88 percent open space, saving white mice and spiders. Groups like Novato Ecumenical Housing (NEH) want to protect and strengthen Marin's most endangered species - hard working, starting families.

So as *Options* explores options for a better Marin, which incidentally is not an island unto itself, consider testing the meaning of a true environmentalist. You will find that affordable housing producers as well as many for-profit developers are truer environmentalists than those locally named environmentalists mentioned above.

Dwayne Hunn
Assistant Executive Director of NEH
Executive Director of North Bay Transportation Management Association (NBTMA)

Options welcomes letters and opinions. All letters must be under 2 pages, typed and double-spaced. Send to _Options Magazine_, 11 Bolinas Rd., Fairfax, CA 94930

Follow the Dollars

In the Watergate movie "All the President's Men," the informant, code named Deep Throat, tells a reporter to "follow the money" to get the truth about the scandal. That approach also reveals the truth about the Persian Gulf situation.

Most Americans incorrectly view Kuwait, Bahrein, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as nothing more than collections of oil wells, when, in reality, the rulers of these U.S. client states play a vital role in supporting America's financial structure.

Year after year Washington's excess weapons spending leads to deficits. These deficits are financed by the sale of treasury bills and bonds on the world market where a very large percentage are bought by Persian Gulf ruling families.

There is a quid pro quo. Washington pledges to keep these ruling families in power and they reciprocate by financing our deficit. This allows our government to continue lavishing money on defense contractors and the other big business interests calling the shots in Washington. The current Gulf Situation threatens this cozy relationship.

President Bush is intentionally misdirecting blame for the recent oil price rise towards Saddam Hussein to drum up support for war. In fact, the price rise is due solely to our keeping Iraqi/Kuwaiti oil off the world market. Prices always rise when supply decreases.

The Iran-Iraq war severely strained the economies of both nations. Iraq invaded Kuwait solely to profit from its oil and can only do so by selling that oil. If it is allowed to do so, the price it will receive will be determined by the world market law of supply and demand, not by Saddam Hussein. the sooner Iraqi/Kuwaiti petroleum returns to the world market, the sooner oil prices will return to pre-August levels.

Why then is Bush about to go to war? The answer is that he is less concerned about the cost of oil than he is about who gets the money and what they do with it. Our long standing quid pro quo with the Gulf ruling families has guaranteed their financing of our enormous deficits. Bush cannot rely on Saddam Hussein to act as they have. Sadly, our deficit situation has become so bad that any loss of international financing could be very damaging to our economy. Furthermore, the President is afraid that, if he does not return Kuwait's rulers to power, other Gulf State petty potentates will fear that, should they be threatened, we will similarly fail to live up to our part of the bargain we have made with them and that they will stop bailing us out of our debt situation. This additional loss of funds would probably cause our entire financial house of cards to come tumbling down.

The weak international military support for Bush's war preparations shows that most other industrial nations, although much more dependent upon Persian Gulf oil than America, find the current situation much less threatening than does the U.S. This is not surprising when the economic history of the last four decades is examined.

While our government's policies have directed much too much U.S. investment into weapons research, the governmental policies of most other industrial nations have placed investment emphasis on improving consumer goods. The effect of these divergent approaches has been that, whereas our very financial survival now depends largely upon the willingness and ability of Gulf State rulers to finance our deficit spending, the economic futures of Germany, Japan, and other industrial giants is guaranteed by their productivity.

Making war in the Persian Gulf will only result in tragic carnage. It will do nothing whatsoever to solve our basic economic problems.

A much better course of action would be for the administration to heed the experience of other industrial nations and to redirect our own investment potential from the military sector to the consumer sector. This would rapidly shrink our deficit and improve our world economic competitiveness. No longer would we have to curry the favor of Gulf State petty potentates and once again we would achieve the economic self reliance that befits a great nation.

War can still be averted. Representatives and senators can be reached by calling 202-224-3121.

Bill Rothman
Belvedere

SNAPSHOTS

The following organizations and those appearing in the Snapshots section throughout the magazine, are but a sampling of the wide variety of dedicated people who are working towards creating meaningful change in the county and in the world. In this section we offer some of the opportunities for involvement that are available to the people of Marin. A complete resource directory can be found at the back of the magazine.

Human Rights

Amnesty International

Amnesty is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. The Marin chapter meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 7:30 on the campus of Dominican College (except October's meeting which is the 24th). Current issues include a conscientious objector in prison in Greece, the torture and murder of children in Brazil and a refugee campaign supporting people in this country under risk of torture if they return to their own countries. Contact: Jeffrey Zankel, PO Box 200 Albion Ct. Novato 94947, 898-7752 .

Peace

Christic Institute

Oliver North was tried for, among other things, deceiving Congress. The Christic Institute is leading a campaign against a bill which would have made most of the Contragate activities legal. SB 2834 and HR 5422 authorize the President to conduct covert operations using any federal agency (not just the CIA). The President could also fund the operation from any agency and use third countries or private contractors to carry them out. The President would also be allowed to withhold key details from Congress. To stop these bills call your legislators at (800)-852- 3446 asking them to make sure that the "oversight" language is *not* included when the two bills are merged and to support the Boxer amendment.

Friends Committee on Legislation

The Friends Committee on Legislation, comprised predominantly of Quakers, monitors and lobbies for legislation at a national and state level. Its newsletter on upcoming legislation comes out 10 times a year and recommends positions you can take with your legislators on many bills. Send $18 for a year's subscription to FCL, 926 J Street #707, Sacramento 95814, (916)443-3734.

Marin Center for Peace & Justice

The Center provides support to Marin groups and individuals committed to building world peace and justice and creating a safe environment, locally and globally. It publishes a monthly calendar, provide meeting space and support services, conduct educational activities and initiates action projects. A number of the groups listed here and in previous issues are members of the center. To join and receive the monthly calendar, send $25 (individual membership) to John Cook, Peace Center, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Anselmo 94960, 459-5676.

Social Justice / Human Needs

Marin Child Abuse Council

The Marin Child Abuse Council coordinates services and encourages cooperation within the community to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect. The group holds meetings and forums and acts as advisors to the board of supervisors in approving the distribution of funds to seven agencies. It also educates professionals and the public on issues relating to child abuse and neglect. Contact: MCAC, 828 Mission Ave, San Rafael 94901, 459-4499. To report suspected abuse, call 499-7153 (24 hours). For information on parental support groups, call the Parental Stress Line 457-2255 (24 hours).

Marin Concerned Citizens - Adopt-A-Family Update

Marin Concerned Citizens is an advocacy organization for the homeless. Since our last edition, the program reports adopting its first two families. Monthly pledges, volunteers and storage space are still needed. Contact: 1024 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960, 456-7805.

Human Concern Center of Marin

The Human Concern Center provides food, clothing, and household goods to homeless people and those with low incomes. It reaches directly into Marin's poorest families. Last year the center assisted over 8000 Marin residents in need and expects this year's requests to top 11,000. They are one of many agencies to loose funding as the Buck Fund gets spent on high-visibility projects. Send donations to: Human Concern Center, 16 Ritter St. San Rafael 94903, 457-8182.

Community Housing Resource Board

Representing various county agencies, Community Housing Resource Board provides information and education on fair housing and promotes understanding of Marin's cultural diversity through projects such as the Panel of Americans. This panel is comprised of local residents from a variety of ethnic, social and religious groups and appears at schools, churches and other organizations. Through discussion and personal history, the panel helps people understand their own prejudices and how they pass these prejudices along to their children. For details on the panel, or to request an appearance, contact Nancy Kenyon at 457-2390.

Marin Housing Rental Assistance

The Rebate for Marin Renters (RMR) program, administered by the Marin Housing Authority, is accepting applications for Corte Madera, Larkspur, Sausalito, Tiburon and unincorporated areas. RMR provides a 12 month subsidy to help alleviate the problem of Marin's high rents and can also help with emergency loans for rent-related expenses. To be eligible, you must be over 55, or handicapped, or a member of a family of two or more related persons. You must also be paying more than 30 percent of gross income on rent. Call or visit the Housing Authority (8am to 4:30p.m.) 30 North San Pedro Rd., San Rafael 94913, 472-4030.

Animal Rights

Coalition for a Cruelty Free Marin

A coalition of 11 animal rights groups, the Coalition for a Cruelty Free Marin is fighting plans for the Buck Center on Aging to research aging through animal experiments. In the place of animal research, which the Coalition deems cruel and expensive, they propose techniques such as cell-cultures and epidemiology, and research into human factors such as lifestyle, diet and medical history. Contact: PO Box 2224, Novato 94948, 925-1311.

In Defense of Animals

From 1985 to 1989, an estimated 300,000 animals died at the hands of Proctor & Gamble's scientists. Toxic chemicals are applied to the skin and eyes of rabbits or fed to dogs. A boycott campaign is being organized - the list of products include many you probably have in your cupboards such as Tide, Bold, Pampers, Ivory and Oil of Olay. For a leaflet and list of P&G's products, contact: 816 West Francisco Blvd., San Rafael 94901, 453-9984.

Photo by John Arms

Supervisor Brady Bevis

The New Kid on the Block

by Wendi Kallins

Politics has become a cynical game. Lawmakers don't trust the public and the populace, in turn, trust the politicians even less. People feel manipulated by their government, their views dismissed, their voices unheard. Then along comes a woman like Brady Bevis with the strange notion that maybe ordinary people have something to say.

Bevis, who recently defeated Robert Stockwell in the County Supervisorial race for the Novato seat, believes in the average citizen. "I really have faith in people," she says. "Politicians are dismayed so often that people don't have faith and trust in politicians. Well, maybe the first responsibility is for politicians to start having faith in people."

Bevis will have the opportunity to test that theory out when she climbs aboard as a Marin County Supervisor on January first. Speaking from her law office in Novato she says she plans to hit the ground running. "I have been working long and hard since March 5 [when she filed for office], on trying to know what I can about the issues, about the

people, and about the relationships between local governments." She wants to set an example, to represent the antithesis of what she considers unresponsive government.

Bevis did not exactly come into politics overnight. She was instrumental in creating a nuclear free zone in Marin and served on the peace conversion commission to see the law enacted. The commission's struggle with the county administration over implementation was an eye opener into the inner workings of government for Bevis. The county, using a legal maneuver, interpreted the law in such a way that allowed it to continue to purchase from nuclear weapons contractors directly contradicting the nuclear free zone law. Four of the five commissioners resigned in protest, Bevis among them.

Two years later she will now take a seat on the county Board of Supervisors, a seat she once faced in protest. She will be the first woman to serve on the board since Barbara Boxer resigned to run for Congress in 1980. She will also be tipping the balance to the left after ten years of fairly conservative politics emanating from the Civic Center.

Bevis was not always the feisty progressive. During the Vietnam era she supported the war, or more to the point, she did not question the government. "I was on the wrong side," she said. "I supported trusting our leaders. I really felt that those were big important complex questions and how could we possibly know, we little people sitting there? Those omniscient people that we elect had the ultimate responsibility for making the best decision." Her younger brother, an antiwar activist, tried to dissuade her but Brady discounted his views. "He was my younger brother and I probably thought I had higher intellectual ranking or something."

To her dismay, Bevis discovered that her brother had been right; his information was accurate and the government had lied. "That taught me that our government has feet of clay and that we are the ones who are actually responsible, not only for electing them and participating in government, but actually for making the ultimate decisions." She also learned that people of different perspectives have something to say. "I learned that I should listen better. I have not disregarded anyone's opinion offhand since then." Each person, she has found, has a unique point of view. "It is amazing to me the wisdom and intelligent perspectives that I have heard from people who nobody else would listen to. This includes homeless and indigents that I have represented as an attorney; marginally retarded people who have a clarity and sense about issues that is amazing."

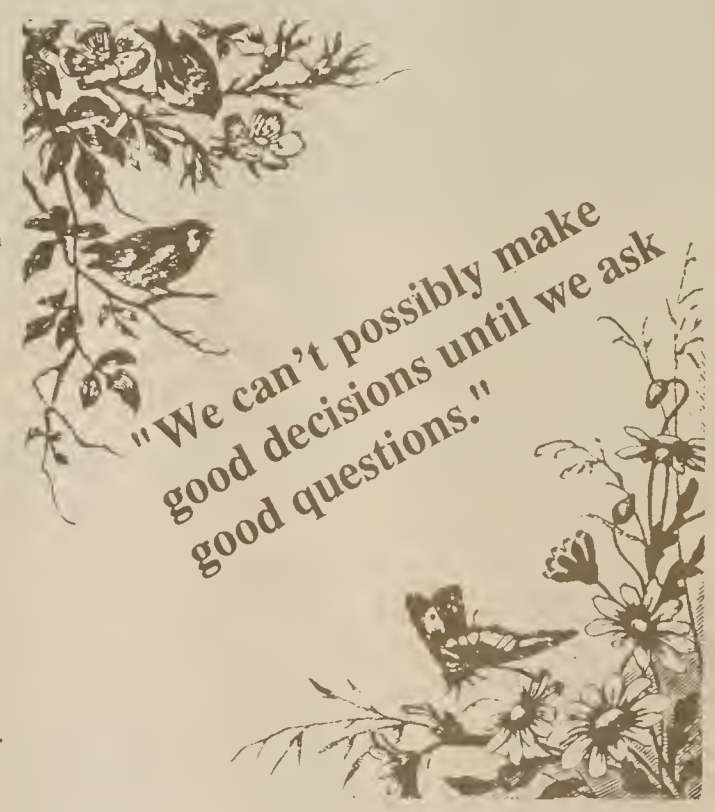
Personal responsibility is at the core of Bevis' involvement in the community. Her parents taught her that, "you weren't allowed to criticize something unless you were willing to participate in it. It was not a matter of political or not political, it was a matter of responsible or not responsible."

Initially, that sense of responsibility resulted in charitable contributions and philanthropic work. Bram, her husband, gives money and time to the Marin Civic Light Opera, and Brady helped establish a group of residential treatment centers for autistic children. Her mother had taught her the gracious art of hostessing and she honed those skills toward fundraising and networking, bringing people together for a common cause.

Charity turned into political action through the nuclear threat.It began with a hitchhiker who spoke to her about the nuclear arms build-up. Wrapped up in family and business, she told him that she had not had time for research. "And I always research something before making a decision," she said.

"He responded, 'This is probably the most important decision of our entire civilization. We really need to spend a little time thinking about it.'" Staying true to her determination to pay attention to other's viewpoints, Bevis found herself pondering this man's words. "I thought: he was right. While I'm taking care of the trivia of life that I think is really important, the largest question of our age is going unanswered and unaddressed...by me. And if I am the one who is ultimately responsible, I have to find out what is going on."

Her political education, which began with her brother's anti-war discussion, was deepened by her involvement in the nuclear free zone movement. After her disillusionment with the Board of Supervisors over the peace conversion commission, she switched her focus to local government, battling for an open budget process and, after moving from San Rafael to Novato, she became increasingly alarmed at the extent of development proposals in North Marin. She was especially concerned over the upcoming sales tax for transportation improvements and her desire for more debate on the issue.



This led to her anxiety over the absence of a challenger to incumbent supervisor Robert Stockwell. "I felt, my gosh, we've got to run someone in this race because it's unhealthy to not have choices." At the eleventh hour she decided to throw her hat in the ring simply because nobody else would.

This follows a pattern in her life. "Choices seem to fall on me and become a decision that is made at the moment, that appear to be spontaneous. But actually it is just a culmination...in reflection it seems like a normal progression of events."

As it was, she was the best candidate. She had already proven herself able to run a successful campaign. A risk taker, Bevis is not averse to sticking her neck out and taking the blows. She has played both the rabble rouser and the peace maker, with ease in either role. She's sharp and her professionalism gives her credibility.

Her good fortune in life also gives her an edge. "I am probably the luckiest person I have ever known." She points to her successful marriage and her five children as proof. "One of the things that has helped my self-esteem is my children. They are the best accomplishment I'm ever going to make."

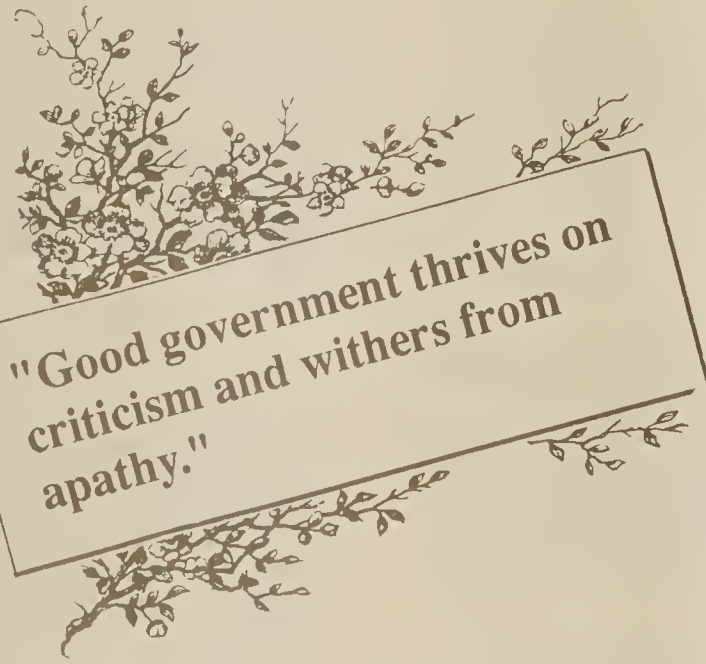
Things seem to go her way more often than not. She passed the bar exam the first time out more out of disinterest than out of brilliance. "I was taking the bar exam as practice," she explained. She was in San Diego focusing on a family matter and not really taking the exam that seriously. "I had a relaxed attitude. It put it in perspective. I knew I was not going to live or die based on that exam."

Relaxed, but high powered, Bevis went into this race to win, and she never doubted her ability to pull it off. She was the only one who was not surprised when she won without a runoff. Relying on female intuition, she knew that the race was winnable because people were ready for a change.

The problem with most government decisions, she says, is the lack of real dialogue and informative debate. "We can't possibly make good decisions until we ask good questions," she insists. "I have discovered that there really is no such thing as a stupid question. So often, we're in a group of people and we're afraid to ask questions because we always think that people know more than we do. But you know, even if they do know more than I do, they may not have heard my perspective, they may not have heard my question, and it may be a damn good question."

People are being steered away from intelligent discussion of the issues, says Bevis, whether it is the jail or the Buck Center on Aging. "I have some questions about the Buck Center and I don't need to be handed another slick brochure as an answer. I feel like a lot of the questions that have come up are being discredited as coming from animal rights freaks. I think that's unfair to categorize people with legitimate concerns as radicals who don't have some good questions."

Bevis has a long list of questions about the transportation plan, but she insists that her opposition to the transportation tax is not black and white. She feels that the public has been given a concept without the particulars to back it up. "We seem to be sold on concepts...beneficial concepts. But that doesn't mean we have to swallow the entire package. Just because something is a good idea doesn't mean that the implementation of it is being done in the best possible way."



Bevis believes that a train in Marin is a good concept. She agrees that we need to fix our aging infrastructure and that something must be done about the impending gridlock on 101. She is strongly in favor of introducing a mass transit system in Marin. "But it's like me being six months pregnant and deciding it's time to deliver. It doesn't matter how wonderful the concept is, you have to bring it to fruition. It has to take its course of allowing public input, allowing the experts to work together on it, not just when they've felt like they've worked on it long enough. I keep hearing this, 'We've worked on it six years, so let's put it before the voters.' So work on it six and a half years and make it right."

Bevis becomes more adamant as she rattles off her questions about the transportation tax. She insists that the fiscal impacts are being grossly underestimated, especially as the plan keeps shifting and changing. Although public demands are prompting the changes in the plan, Bevis stubbornly insists that it still is inadequate. The lack of cooperation with Sonoma, the fueling of new growth, the effectiveness of the transit line, and the real costs of the project all remain elusive, she says.

"We need to get people through Marin. This boondoggle of 13 miles is not a good first step. It's just like [transportation planner] John Eels said about never setting up a demonstration system, because if the first step fails you never take a second one."

This train line, says Bevis, will not encourage people to take mass transit. It will have the opposite effect. "Let's say you have a working mother. She has to take her child to school, then let's say she does a little shopping, she has a part-time job, she has a day care problem. I don't see any way that that woman is going to be able to rely upon public transportation that is as inflexible as a 13 mile transit rail from Larkspur to Novato."

But that doesn't mean that Bevis would not support a train, either. She would like to see Marin tie into a regional transit system that would connect the county to Sonoma and to the rest of the bay. "I had hoped that we would be able to continue in our negotiations [with Sonoma] while slapping some asphalt on that [Northwest-Pacific] right of way and putting an express busway on there so that we could have something in the interim." She sees little fiscal loss in pulling up the existing tracks since most of them would be replaced anyway according to her information. Buses are also more attractive for the immediate future because buses can leave the tracks.

"A bus uses streets just like we do. It's something that's possible. It's something that's affordable and it's something that gets us to change our minds about mass transit because we're providing something that is actually beneficial, that actually works. By the time you get a train in you would have decreased the amount of subsidy by increasing the number of riders. But first we have to change our way of thinking by making it as absolutely convenient as possible, because people are not going to be inconvenienced."

Calling herself a slow growth advocate, Bevis says that the time has come for people to realize that "times have changed and building and development don't pay their own way. We have to understand the fiscal impact, the drain that development brings with it. We used to be under the impression that growth is good. That's the American way." But governments have discovered that property taxes don't pay for infrastructure and resources; commercial developments don't even pay their own way. The costs are too high.

Once the reality of the fiscal impacts of development are fully absorbed, says Bevis, then we must realize that there are still good reasons for building. "Because there are certain things that we need and want. We want to have cultural centers, we want to have senior centers, we want to have mass transit, affordable housing, a place for our children and our grandchildren to live, childcare centers, employment."

Many feel that building in existing developed areas reduces both the fiscal and the environmental costs. Marin Conservation League proposes building affordable housing in the downtowns and Bevis is intrigued with this plan. "The pedestrian pocket concept [compact communities along transit lines] is a very good one but I'd like to see it superimposed on our existing communities. It is visionary. But it doesn't mean that since we've screwed up the communities we're in we should go out and build new ones."

Unlike other politicians, Bevis believes that people would accept these changes within their communities given the right information and allowing enough public involvement. She finds the polarization between community members very destructive. In Novato, "we've taken a terribly reactive rather than proactive role in planning because in order to stop large, poorly planned, invasive kinds of development we had to throw our bodies in front of tractors and take grassroots confrontational kinds of action. That, in the long term, is destructive. I see my role to try to break through that and build some consensus."
Taking Hamilton Field as an example, Bevis would try to "affirmatively go out and say: what do we want at Hamilton? What is our vision of what we could accommodate there that would be productive and beneficial to the community?"

What if those people want to tear down the buildings and have nothing there? "Then," says Bevis, "I have a responsibility to talk to them about some realities. Because we need to connect the information together. These people [pro- and anti-growthers] haven't been talking to each other. There is a complete breach of trust. I'm finding out that the differences of opinion are not nearly so far apart as the perceptions."

Bevis may become a bridge builder in her own town, but at the county seat she hopes to stir things up. Quoting Jack Anderson, "Good government thrives on criticism and withers from apathy," Bevis wants to bring a critical eye to the board chambers. But she distinguishes herself from the muckraker who comes in and tells you what's wrong. "I want to come in and ask, 'Why isn't it right?'."

Brady Bevis hopes to change the way we think about government, about development, and about the role of the ordinary citizen in the decision making process. Her success will depend on the support of the citizenry in that process. That means that people will need to get more involved, get beyond criticism and be willing to put forward creative alternatives. She has found that if you give people respect, they respect you in return. And if you listen to them, then they will listen back. Given good information, says Bevis, people will make good decisions.

SNAPSHOTS

Families and Kids

Footloose Forays

These educational forays into the natural world are mostly led by Michael Ellis and vary from an evening in Muir Woods to a month in Chile. Michael has been a lifelong naturalist and former director of Slide Ranch. His forays have a reputation for being an enjoyable way to learn about the natural world. There is a hike most Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Contact: Michael Ellis, PO Box 1179, Pt. Reyes Station, 94956, 663-9206.

Terwilliger Nature Education Center

The center provides nature education programs for children and adults, striving to create an appreciation and awareness of nature so that people can make responsible decisions to protect and preserve it. It also offers twice yearly docent training programs and programs for schools or other groups. Contact: Cynda Vyas, 50 El Camino Drive, Corte Madera 94925, 927-1670.

Environment

Bay Institute

The activities of man have changed the San Francisco Bay more than any other major American estuary. The delta has gone from a brackish marsh to a diked farmland. California lags behind other western states in setting streamflows for fish, wildlife and water quality. As a result, the increased flow for irrigation is reducing water quality. The Bay Institute performs scientific, legal and other investigations into the bay's problems and applies its expertise wherever public officials are making decisions affecting the bay's water, wetlands, wildlife and public health. To join, or subscribe to their magazine "Bay on Trial," contact: 10 Liberty Ship Way #120, Sausalito 94965, 331-2303.

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

Through a variety of methods including direct action and cooperation with local agriculture and the park system, the Environmental Action Committee provides a voice in the decision making process that affects the fragile beauty of West Marin. Current dangers include oil drilling off the coast and private development on lands slated for inclusion in the park. To join, contact: PO Box 609, Point Reyes Station 94956, 663-9312.

Environmental Action Guides

An excellent set of environmental action guides on "Air Pollution & the Automobile," "Energy Conservation," "Ozone Depletion," "Water Conservation," "Household Hazardous Waste," and "Recycling" are put out by the California Senate. They are available from your state senator. The set we found came courtesy of Senator Milton Marks at 30 N. San Pedro Rd #160, San Rafael 94903. Marks has an excellent environmental voting record (rated 100% by the California League of Conservation Voters), but before believing that a senator producing these pamphlets is pro-environment call either CLCV at 896-5550 or the Marin Greens at 45-EARTH.

Friends of the Esteros

Nestled in the headlands of northern Marin and southern Sonoma are two unique estuaries which

provide a haven for a rich variety of wildlife. These two fjord-like estuaries, the Estero Americano near Bodega Bay and the Estero de San Antonio just north of Dillon Beach, are virtually inaccessible by road and are included within the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary. Santa Rosa City Council seems to think these would make an excellent location to dump up to 25 million gallons a day of "municipal waste-water." In the process they would drown a picturesque valley and threaten the oyster beds of Tomales Bay. Send a donation or get a list of officials to write to from: Box 184, Tomales 94971. A fund- raising "Oyster & Music Festival" is being put on at Olema Ranch campground on Oct. 21st featuring local music, food, drink and information.

Marin Conservation League

Since 1934 the Marin Conservation League has championed a balance between the needs of Marin's citizens and its environment, testifying at public hearings, meeting with officials and educating the population. The organization works on problems such as toxics, coastal protection and oil drilling, and produces a monthly newsletter. MCL is a membership organization. To join or to get more information contact: Kay Slagle 35 Mitchell Boulevard #11, San Rafael 94903, 472-6170.

Marin Rainforest Action Network

World Rainforest Week is Oct. 20-28 and Marin Rainforest Action Network is participating in the international boycott of Mitsubishi products. Mitsubishi is single-handedly responsible for devastating thousands of acres of rainforest and promoting cultural genocide on a global scale. Mitsubishi products to boycott include cars, stereos, VCRs and FAX machines. Write to Mitsubishi at 520 Madison Ave, NY 10022 and tell the company what you are doing. On Oct. 26 call John Andl, manager of Mitsubishi's lumber department, at (212)605- 2534. For information on local events and a longer list of products from rainforest destroying companies contact: Ann Maurer, 20 Montevideo Way, San Rafael 94903, 459-1986.

Point Reyes National Seashore

The Seashore is a national treasure right on our doorsteps, with space for hiking - both day and overnight - beaches and abundant wildlife. A number of activities are organized at park facilities. The Bear Valley visitor center, (follow the signs from the turnoff between Point Reyes Station and Olema) has an interesting museum and a half-mile self-guided loop trail about earthquakes. There are naturalist activities such as guided hikes on weekends. For details on activities in the park, camping permits and rules, hikes, etc., contact: National Park Service, Point Reyes 94956, 663-1092.

Save Horse Hill

Horse Hill is the prominent hillside on the west of Hwy. 101 between East Blithedale & Corte Madera. It is best known for the herd of free-roaming horses grazing there. Save Horse Hill is trying to raise another $530,000 to purchase it as open space. If this money is not raised then a number of house-sites will be created which would block public access to the land. The deadline is presently set at October 26th although Save Horse Hill is attempting to raise short-term loans to extend the deadline. Send your contributions to: Janis Bosenko, Save Horse Hill Fund, PO Box 621, Mill Valley 94942 388-0961.

West Marin Paths

Supporting paths through West Marin, this group is particularly involved in plans for a path along Lagunitas Creek from Inverness Park almost to Point Reyes Station. Controversy surrounds this project, as one side believes the project will improve access with minimal impact and others, like the Environmental Action Committee, object that the width of the path (to conform to county requirements) makes this one of the largest additions of new pavement in Marin. Contact: Ken Fox, Box 844 Point Reyes Station 94956, 663-1467.

Raising the Stakes on Direct Democracy

Artwork by Marcia Steiger

by Lew Tremaine

The environmental crisis and California's commitment to solving it are the topics of four statewide propositions - 128, 130, 135 and 138 - on November's ballot. And, while the state's ecology hangs in the balance of this election, the four propositions represent much more. They are a litmus test of the effectiveness and future of a direct democracy movement that is fast losing public support.

At a time when California's initiative process enjoys a mere 66 percent approval rating in public opinion polls (compared to 83 percent 10 years ago) the battle over these proposed environmental laws embodies an escalation both in the strategies of citizens' legislation and in the lengths to which the established powers will go to maintain *their* control over legislation. In

many ways, this battle plays right into the hands of those who oppose direct democracy and the initiative process, but in the end, it could result in a sweet victory for environmental proponents and those who have grown tired of a slow moving and impotent representative legislature.

Big Green and Forests Forever vs. Big Brown and Big Stump

For eight years environmentalists have watched a parade of laws designed to bolster environmental protections march one by one into the blade of Governor George Deukmejian's veto pen. Backed heavily by the lumber, chemical, petroleum and agriculture industries, Republican Governor Duke has consistently cut down any law that would threaten the profits of these stalwart backers. In response, state environmentalists chose this November's Gubernatorial election (Deukmejian has reached his two term limit and must step down) to put forward two sharp-toothed initiatives, Propositions 128 and 130. The two initiatives, dubbed Big Green and Forests Forever respectively, were designed to make up for lost time in forwarding the environmental agenda and to facilitate the election of a more environmentally conscious (read Democratic) candidate to the Governor's seat.

Big Green is a sweeping act that would ban all cancer causing and mutagenic pesticides within eight years. It would require that a carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) reduction plan be instituted by 1993, require that carbon dioxide and CFC emissions from industry and automobiles be reduced by 20 percent within 10 years and by 40 percent within 20 years. Also, it would phase out the production and sale of products containing CFCs.

The proposition also addresses deforestation by the logging industry. It would authorize the sale of $300 million in bonds for the acquisition and protection of old growth redwood stands and to fund the planting of new trees. It would ban clear-cutting and ban the invasion of any ancient redwood forest of 10 acres or more that has not before been subjected to logging. Those old growth forests open to logging could only be logged by the selection method under the law.

Additionally, Big Green seeks to protect California's coast from oil spills by banning drilling within three miles of the shore and by imposing a 25 cent per barrel fee on all oil crossing state waters. Money raised by this fee would fund clean-up costs in the event of an oil spill and the creation of an oil spill prevention plan, to be devised by the coastal commission and a newly created arm of the Department of Fish & Game to be known as the Office of Oil Spill Response.

Finally, Big Green will create the Office of Environmental Advocate, which will oversee the law's implementation and the implementation of all other environmental laws.

Proposition 130, the Forests Forever initiative, would mandate major reforms in California's forest protection laws. Its provisions are aimed at state-owned and privately owned forests. Federal law prohibits its application to National Forests, which are overseen by the Office of Land Management.

The initiative defines clear cutting and bans it; defines and protects ancient redwood forests, defines and protects wildlife species dependent upon forest habitats and defines and mandates sustainable forestry practices (practices that limit logging to the number of trees planted to replace what is logged).

Forests Forever also seeks to discourage the exporting of logs to foreign countries by urging Congress to ban such practices and by forbidding the state from buying lumber from companies that sell California lumber to foreign countries or that process California lumber in foreign countries.

The initiative bans removal of trees within 50 feet from the banks of all Class I watercourses and limits logging to 10 percent of the volume of trees within 100 feet of Class I waterways and within 50 feet of Class II waterways within a 20 year period. It also requires that logging roads be maintained to prevent erosion or be returned to productive timberland. It restricts controlled forest burns to wildfire prevention and instances where the burns will facilitate site regeneration.

Additionally, Forests Forever limits to two the number of seats those with economic interest in the logging industry can have on the nine-member State Board of Forestry. Finally, it authorizes the sale of $742 million in bonds to fund public acquisition and protection of privately owned ancient forests and it authorizes that $32 million of the fund be used to retrain and provide assistance to those whose jobs are impacted by ancient forest protection.

The opposition to these initiatives has taken a page out of the 1988 ballot fight over insurance reform (remember all those insurance initiatives?) and qualified two initiatives of their own which are billed as "moderate alternatives" to the environmentalist-backed proposals. Propositions 135 and 138, "The Consumer Pesticide Enforcement Act for Food, Water and Worker Safety" and "The Global Warming and Clearcutting Reduction and Wildlife Protection and Reforestation Act" respectively, have been put forward by the industries and trade associations that will be most affected by Big Green and Forests Forever. Environmentalists have dubbed the industry initiatives "Big Brown" and "Big Stump".

Proposition 135, which was sponsored by a coalition of agribusiness organizations, would create and fund an advisory panel to study the health effects of pesticides. It carries no enabling language to require that the panel's recommendations are followed. It makes no changes in the oversight of pesticide use, maintaining jurisdiction with the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs.

The initiative also provides funds for the study of alternatives to chemical pesticide use (again offering no enabling language when effective alternatives are found) and it provides funding for the purchase of sterile fruit flies, which control the spread of medflies.

By and large, Proposition 135 maintains the status quo and contains language that makes further reform of pesticide controls more difficult to achieve. It requires that future reforms be approved by initiative or by a two-thirds vote of the legislature.

Proposition 138, sponsored by the Timber Association of America, provides similar industry protections for its backers. It removes the state's ability to acquire redwood forests through eminent domain, thus driving the price of protective acquisition considerably higher. The proposition claims to ban clear cutting, however it allows deforestation as long as one or two trees per acre are left.

Proposition 138 also restricts the California Board of Forestry's ability to ban logging techniques. While it proposes that Timber Management Plans be required for any timber tract over 5000 acres, it offers a one time review to such plans and disallows further review regardless of what new evidence is unearthed. It also allows logging to commence while a Timber Management Plan's approval is appealed in the courts.

The Dirty Little Turf War

Opponents of Big Green and Forests Forever are using another strategy that has become synonymous with California's initiative process - well financed and misleading media campaigns. The chemical pesticide industry has launched a multi-million dollar campaign which insists that Big Green is commonly known as "The Hayden Initiative". It makes this claim because former Assemblyman Tom Hayden chaired the committee that authored the initiative. The campaign then attempts to convince

voters that Hayden, a well known liberal political figure considered radical by some, will be named to head the new Office of Environmental Advocate. These ads were pulled off the air by court order in August because they did not identify the campaign's chemical industry sponsors. They now run with a sponsor identification at the end.

The timber industry is waging a similar campaign, tying Forests Forever to Earth First!. A favorite point made in the timber industry ads is that Proposition 130 will allow individuals to file legal suits against those who violate the initiative's provisions, and provides state compensation for legal fees incurred by litigants - "even radicals like Earth First!" The ads fail to say that these provisions in Forests Forever are simply a restatement of existing state law. They also fail to mention that the main proponents of Forests Forever are the Sierra Club and the Planning and Conservation League, two well respected, main-stream environmental groups.

Big Green has drawn heavier fire. In July, the Central Valley Farmers Association filed a lawsuit against the proposition on the grounds that it is not specific to one issue, as state law mandates. Surprisingly, the suit did not focus on Big Green's shotgun approach to numerous environmental problems (justified, according to proponents, because it addresses pollution). The Central Valley farmers sought to have the initiative struck from the ballot because of an obscure provision which raises penalties for unfair business practices.

The off-the-ballot attack does not end with limp lawsuits, however. The Bush administration is attempting to undercut the measure by calling for standardized international pesticide rules. If Bush succeeds, the international rules would supersede Big Green's more restrictive provisions on pesticide control. There is also much suspicion that when Bush placed a 10 year ban on oil drilling off California's shore in June, he did so to make Big Green's oils drilling provisions seem unnecessary.

The Subtle Agenda

Apart from the President's attempt to pre-empt Big Green's pesticide provisions, the attacks on Propositions 128 and 130 are not likely to turn back the green tide now sweeping California. As was the case in 1988, when Proposition 103 launched major reforms in the state's insurance industry (subsequent legal wrangling notwithstanding) the state's electorate will likely not be fooled. Competing propositions, cleverly timed political moves and dire claims in the media tend to not derail popular desires for change.

The real damage in this latest proposition war will be done to the initiative process itself. More and more, ballot propositions are becoming political tools rather than legitimate attempts at citizens' legislation. It should not go unnoticed that Big Green itself was launched with a hidden agenda as well - to bolster the Democrats' chances of retaking the Governor's mansion. Attorney General John Van deKamp, who lost to Dianne Feinstein in the June Democratic Gubernatorial primary, was a major architect of the initiative. He "put his political agenda on the ballot with him," in the hope that the popular initiative, and also one addressing the drug problem, would sweep him to victory. Even the "good guys" are playing politics with the initiative process, and in the case of Van deKamp, with little success.

Chief to the decline of support for the initiative process are these types of abuses, and the deceptive media campaigns that accompany battles over controversial initiatives. And citizen legislation is growing more and more controversial as the public seeks to break political ground that elected representatives fear to tread. Tough laws like Big Green and Forests Forever would never make it out of committee in the representative legislature, much less come to a vote. That is the beauty of the initiative process.

The body politic, however, is by no means beyond killing the patient to cure the disease. Thus far, legislative attempts to curb the initiative process have died for lack of popular support, but that trend seems to be changing. If the bastardization of the initiative process is allowed to continue, support for the process is bound to drop below majority levels and there are only two things that will save it. First, the progressives who are launching worthy propositions like 128 and 130 must resist the temptation to play politics with the process. To impose restrictions would restrict everyone's initiative rights, so self-discipline is essential.

Let the Truth be Known

In addition to self-discipline by those who value the initiative process, truth in advertising laws must be strengthened in the area of political advertising. Californians are growing tired of being lied to and a growing number are concluding that the best way to stop the lies is to remove the things that are being lied about.

But the truth has little to do with political advertising. In late September, McClatchy News Service circulated a story which included a telling quote by San Francisco political consultant Michael Fenenbock.

"It is not my job to tell the truth or even to find out what the truth is," Fenenbock said. "On the other hand, neither is it my job to invent evil things. I'm trying to give people information so they can arrive at a conclusion. There is a big gray area."

A big gray area indeed. McDonald's would claim it sold healthfood if allowed; but it's not. Why then is it permissible for politicians to lie about ballot initiatives and each other? Much of the justification for political advertising lies centers on the First Amendment. Campaign lies are masked as "opinions," which of course, we all have the right to express.

It is not, for instance, a matter of opinion who the backers of Forests Forever are, yet there is nothing to stop the timber industry from mischaracterizing the initiative's supporters. In today's political climate, where marketing has taken such a huge role in public policymaking, voters need the same protections against deceptive marketing that they enjoy as consumers.

At the rate its support is declining, the initiative process will not survive without such protection for another five years. If laws are not changed to ensure honesty, the California electorate's right to direct democracy will soon lie in a tomb of mud, sticks and stones.

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(In the Park Madera Center, behind the Shell Station)
1683 Novato Blvd., Novato (415) 897-6461
(next to Alamo Travel in Bauer Bldg. at 7th/Tamalpais)

Caring for Our Ocean Mammals

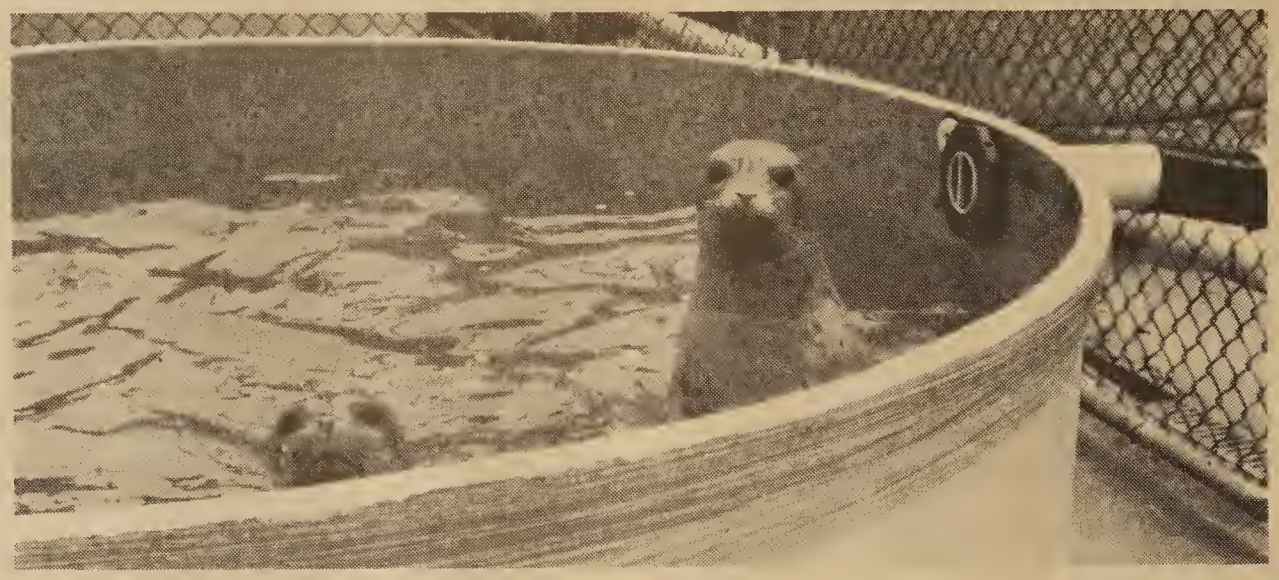


Photo by Amity Hotchkiss

by Amity Hotchkiss

Dale, a big-boned, 200-pound volunteer at the California Marine Mammal Center, was no match for Boone, a 600-pound California sea lion. Dale's job was to try to pin Boone down with his body while the other volunteers attempted to keep him in one place with large "herding" boards. After a pen chase which saw Boone lunge at Dale, and in another moment slither to his pool ladder with escape in mind, the crew finally netted and immobilzed the great animal.

With four humans and their instruments in place, a medical volunteer knelt down to inject a needle into Boone's fin to draw blood necessary to assess his health. But in the end, they left the relieved sea mammal in his pen, having failed to extract even a drop.

"It's a hit or miss situation," said Jan Roletto, a Marine Mammal Center biologist. "Sometimes when we're trying to get a sample, the animal goes into a kind of diving response, which stops the blood from flowing. And the fatter they are, the harder it is."

All in an afternoon's work for the volunteers at the California Marine Mammal Center (CMMC), a non-profit organization in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near Sausalito. Since it was founded in 1975 to stop the killing of beached marine mammals determined a public health nuisance, the center's volunteers have rescued and rehabilitated 2,000 sick, injured and abandoned marine mammals along the coast from Central California to the Oregon border.

Fog as thick as clouds surrounds the center's outdoor pen area on a windy bluff above Cronkhite Beach. A distant lighthouse foghorn warns boats of the menacing, craggy cliffs. Harsh to some humans, this landscape feels like home to California's marine mammals - the plentiful California sea lion, bold elephant seal, and docile harbor seal - a species group called pinniped.

The wide-open, pooled pens were built close to the animals' natural environment, as the center's aim is to return its animals to their windswept beaches if rehabilitation is successful.

A small harbor seal coyly pulls fish from a patient volunteer's hand. In another pen two sea lions rest peacefully on their sides. In their eyes one can almost see gratitude. Without this hospital stay, they might have lost the strength to survive in the wild.

The volunteers seem happy to help. "I've always loved wild animals, and one day I just came up

here and signed up," said Diane Smith, a volunteer who works at CMMC two to three days a week, more if necessary. In her two and a half years here, she's performed an endless list of tasks from feeding to administering medications to performing necropsies (like an autopsy) on deceased animals. Prior to working at the center, she had little experience in marine biology. "Every day I learn something new. The medical staff people have a great sense of humor - you have to sometimes - and they're willing to teach us practically anything they know."

While day-to-day care of animals is exhausting, rescue work is grueling, but equally satisfying. "Rescuing the animals is my favorite part of the job," Smith said. "I especially like helping with sea lions. It's a challenge because they move quickly and they're more aggressive than the other marine mammals."

She described one particularly difficult rescue in Point Reyes that took four days. "We got word of a male sea lion having seizures on the beach and every day a crew would go out there to attempt a capture," she said.

Unlike many sick animals on the beach, this one had enough energy to play a cat and mouse game - moving around the beach, slipping in and out of the water. On the last day, a volunteer got a net over him, the first step in the rescue procedure.

"The rest of us ran up to herd the sea lion into the cage, and the guy next to me got knocked down, hitting the board I was holding out to protect myself. The animal grabbed my arm with his teeth and started shaking me. I blacked out - all I remember is him grabbing me."

The rescues go on despite the risk. "Last year we had a group of sea lions stranded near San Luis Obispo, and I worked 110 hours on rescues," Smith said. The biggest marine mammal ever rescued was Keho, a 697-pound sea lion, whose cage had to be lifted onto the CMMC truck with a backhoe.

How do volunteers find the beached animals? "We depend mainly on the educated public and the stranding network, which includes park rangers, Coast Guard officials, and other rehabilitation centers," Roletto explained, "and that's a good system for finding animals on high-use beaches. There probably are other animals on more deserted beaches, but we don't have the resources to go out and look for animals. We have plenty to care for, especially in the spring during pupping season."

Although the center gets some false alarms from beachgoers, "I'd have to say we have a very well educated public who knows who to call, or gets a ranger who knows to call us. Once we talk to them, the question, 'Why do you think the animal is sick?' becomes very important. We'll ask about symptoms. But most marine mammals don't come up on the beach unless there's something wrong."

Even when the animals arrive at the center, diagnosis is difficult. "With a great big animal you can't lean down and ask, 'How do you feel today?' " Roletto said. "We have to ask questions like, 'Is he responding to antibiotics?' "

To what causes are these animals' sicknesses and injuries attributed? "On the surface - I say that because we don't know the effects of habitat disturbance and pollutants - it appears that most of them are natural problems," she said.

Most of the sea lions, for example, have pneumonia, a parasite, or a kidney problem called leptosporosis. Once an animal is sick and the body weak, problems tend to multiply.

Humans are another threat to the health of marine mammals. The CMMC attributes four to five percent of its animals' illnesses to human-related causes. And most of these are "fisheries interactions," where animals are caught in a net, shot at accidentally or intentionally, or hooked on a fishing line.

"By law, fishermen are allowed to protect their catch from certain species of marine mammals," said Roletto, "but there are two species in danger - the Guadalupe fur seal and the Steller's sea lion -

continued on page 24

Sacre

Photography

Moonrise over Mt. Tamalpais

Autumn

by Cerridwen Fallingstar

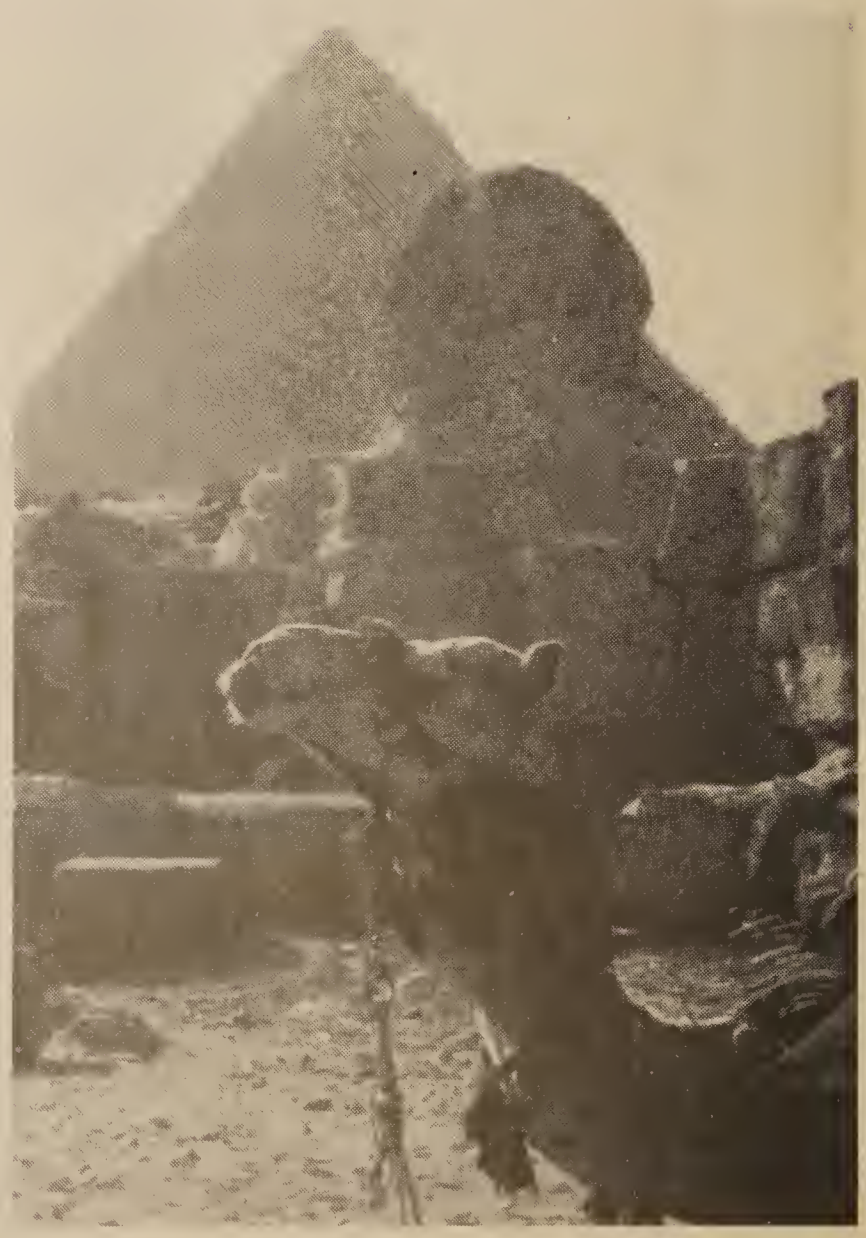
Trees drop love letters
Yellow and scarlet
Script of black mold.

Like fire the message
Crackles in my hand;
Everything changes
Nothing remains the same.

Is it?

by Carey Caccavo Wheaton

Is it safe out there?
Light shocks my eyes
Searing sun
Icy breeze
Shiver through me
Bright
strange
boundless -
Is it safe out there?
Close
familiar,
the cave
that held me
is now unsafe -
Earth shakes me
aware:
Out of
warm and cozy
death
I run,
Out of Illusion,
Ready or not,
Naked
into the wild land:
Is it safe out there?



Guiza, Egypt

Land

indy Pavlinac

Genesis

by Carey Caccavo Wheaton

Deep, shadowed places
are touched
by fingers of light.
Damp, wild hollows
ripe
with fern and moss
receive the sun
in wonder, shout forth peals
of bloom

Too late
to hide,
pointless to fear
Isn't this why
we are here?

Now
hissing waters
appear
flashing silver ribbons
over green,
dancing shimmers
of light and shadow
over canyon walls

Aroused from slumber,
rumbling
trembling
roaring
She sends shoots
in all directions...
Behold!
Gaia
Wakes.

View of Mt. Tamalpais from Ring Mountain

Grandmother & Her Basket
A natural formation at Pyramid Lake, Nevada

Cindy Pavlinac is a Mill Valley photographer whose specialty in sacred land photography began with her studies as an anthropologist. Her work has been published in *Sacred Places, The Once & Future Goddess, Utne Reader*, and *Shaman's Drum*. Speaking of her work she says, "I journey to ancient sacred sites and ask to open a dialogue with the Spirit there, to receive insights encoded in the placement of stone in relationship to the landscape and refined by the prayers of many worshipers over thousands of years. I take photographs, when appropriate, to bring back the powerful influence of place."

from page 21
that are protected by law because birth rates are declining and pups aren't making it to adulthood.

"Unfortunately most people don't know the difference between these and other marine mammals. That's a problem, because one of the animals could get killed from a gunshot."

Even in protected marine envronments such as the Farallon Islands, Steller's sea lions show up less often than they did five years ago. Populations of that species are also declining in Alaska, where most of the animals reside.

Although the majority of Guadalupe fur seals live off the coast of Mexico, one found on the Central Coast was brought to the CMMC after he was found entangled in a fishing net.

Marine mammals may also be suffering from a greater human malaise - ocean toxins - but evidence is scanty as yet. "Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get a grant to fund a long-term analysis of pollutants in marine mammals," said Roletto, "but we do provide samples to labs who are willing to help us on a pro bono basis." The center is one of the few places in the world where samples can be taken from an animal immediately after it has been brought in from the wilderness.

Early this year, the CMMC helped aid marine mammals affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the involvement put the center in the limelight. Soon afterwards, scientists from the Environmental Protection Agency contacted the staff about a research study to identify certain toxins in marine mammals.

Peigin Barrett, the center's executive director, wants to see scientific studies around toxins become a larger part of its work. "Our hope is to find an ongoing test to detect PCBs in marine mammal blubber. We know they are in the ocean and the animals have adapted somewhat, but no significant studies have been done," she stated, adding that "an animal cannot be separated from its environment. If people care about marine mammals but don't care about ocean pollution, we're bound to upset the whole food chain."

In addition to animal care and scientific programs, the center maintains an active environmental education program. Each year more than 50,000 visitors make the trip to the Marine Mammal Center, where large picture boards tell the biological story while nearby seals honk a lively welcome. Another 18,000 people annually, many of them children, go through formal education programs. "The environmental education component has naturally evolved from our animal care program," said Barrett. "We feel it's important because helping the animals is one thing, but if you don't understand how they fit into the ecological system, it doesn't make sense."

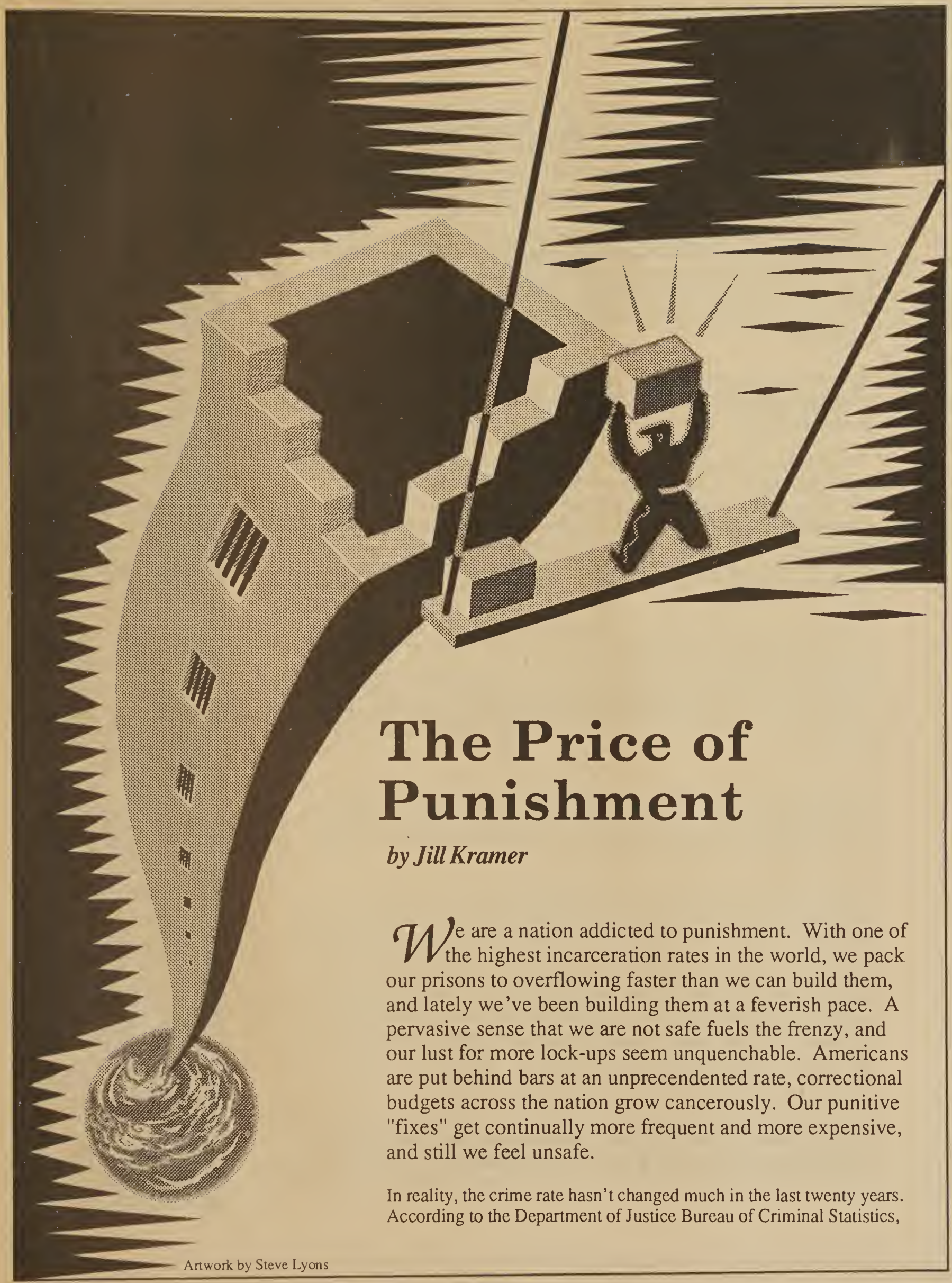
This increased understanding among community members has resulted in more support for the nonprofit agency. "The community has been tremendous," said Barrett. "The majority of our membership comes from Marin, but it is growing across the state and country."

But its most dedicated supporters are the 400 volunteers. From teachers and lawyers to students, each puts in the time he or she can spare. It's said that once one becomes involved with the center, it's a lifelong commitment. "I'd like to stay here and learn a lot more, and maybe take the animal health care technician course to add to my learning," said Smith.

Despite the bite scar on Smith's arm, her attachment to the animals seems natural. "I like the male sea lions because they're very handsome. One of the old males I liked was Gargantuan. He acted like a father to all the little sea lions around. At feeding they would offer him four or five of their own fish and he would protect them in return."

As is true with our own species, each animal has a particular personality, some more bold and aggressive than others. But at the center, most warm up to their caregivers. Even the stubborn sea lion, Boone, eventually calmed down enough to let the medical staff take his blood sample. "We prayed to the blood gods," laughed one volunteer.

The Marin Marine Mammal Center is located at Ft. Cronkhite; call 561-7284.



Artwork by Steve Lyons

The Price of Punishment

by Jill Kramer

We are a nation addicted to punishment. With one of the highest incarceration rates in the world, we pack our prisons to overflowing faster than we can build them, and lately we've been building them at a feverish pace. A pervasive sense that we are not safe fuels the frenzy, and our lust for more lock-ups seem unquenchable. Americans are put behind bars at an unprecendented rate, correctional budgets across the nation grow cancerously. Our punitive "fixes" get continually more frequent and more expensive, and still we feel unsafe.

In reality, the crime rate hasn't changed much in the last twenty years. According to the Department of Justice Bureau of Criminal Statistics,

the number of reported crimes per 100,000 California residents rose during the '70s, but dropped again in the '80s. Since 1980, the total California crime index - including willful homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft - *decreased* 12.6 percent. During the same years, the rate of prison commitments *increased* 197.3 percent.

After a two-decade span in which no prison expansion took place in California, the Deukmejian administration brought the number of state pens from 12 to 19, with 4 more now under construction and an additional 4 authorized. The state budget for corrections has been increasing at an average annual rate of 16 percent, compared to 8 percent for education and 5 percent for health and welfare.

The November ballot will include bond measures totaling $810 million for new state prisons and $580 million for new county jails. Voter approval is virtually guaranteed.

Without voter consultation, plans are afoot for a new Marin County jail and the expansion of both San Quentin and the county honor farm. Although ours is one of the least punitive counties in one of the less punitive states, Marin's preoccupation with law and order has been increasing along with that of the rest of the nation. The county detention centers are taking an ever-larger bite of the budget, while the percentage going toward preventive programs is shrinking.

There is no question that, under the current system, the capacity of our correctional facilities is hopelessly inadequate. In California, there are 93,679 inmates jammed into prisons designed for 51,103. County jails are overcrowded by 135 percent of capacity. The millions of dollars' worth of new detention projects already authorized offer no relief for the future. By 1995, jails will still be overcrowded by 130 percent and prisons by a terrifying 238 percent.

The problem is not explained by overall population growth, which is up less than 20 percent in the last decade; nor by the crime rate, which has fallen; nor, sadly, by increased police efficiency. What has occurred is a shift in the way we deal with the disenfranchised.

Vernell Crittenden, spokesperson for San Quentin, observes that many of those formerly housed in mental health facilities are now showing up at The Big House. "They closed a lot of the mental hospitals and put those folks out on the street. Then the community saw them sleeping under freeways and said, 'I don't want to see them in my neighborhood,' so they put pressure on their local law enforcement to arrest these people, which in turn filled up your city jails. Then the court said, 'You have to start releasing them.' The cities said, 'We're not going to release them,' so then they give them different types of sentences just to qualify them to do state time. So people with mental disorders wind up filling up the state prisons."

The war on drugs is also putting a severe strain on our detention centers. While arrest rates for most offenses have decreased in the last decade along with crime rates, arrests for drug law violations are *up* 131 percent. In a space of just four years, 1984-88, the number of prison commitments with

drugs as a primary offense grew from 3,890 to 19,908. Seventy-five percent of San Quentin inmates are drug offenders.

In Marin, jail bookings for drug law violations increased 80 percent between 1988 and 1989 alone, while the number of reported crimes fell. Convicted offenders do state time.

Increasing recidivism is another factor in prison overcrowding. Nearly 70 percent of parolees are now returned to prison within two years of release. As one state Assembly staffer puts it, "If any other state program had a failure rate of 70 percent, it'd get blown off the board." These days, however, not even the staunchest supporters try to justify prison contruction in terms of deterrence. Tough sentences are no longer expected to prevent crime. Prisons are built solely for punishment.

Unfortunately, by draining the budgets of programs that *are* designed for crime prevention, the construction binge actually threatens public safety. At one time, the state funded local drug treatment and mental health programs that functioned in lieu of incarceration. In the '70s, funding responsibility for the programs shifted from the state to the counties, just as Proposition 13 diminshed local revenues. Many programs were unable to survive the '80s.

The latest blow occurred with Governor Deukmejian's announcement that state funding of local mental health budgets is to be slashed. In Marin, it's a loss of $3.5 million - 41 percent of the current budget for Community Mental Health.

Barbara Bloom, committee chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management, says, "We're seeing the failures of our public policies and social service programs in the criminal justice system:

"What has occurred is a shift in the way we deal with the disenfranchised... the mentally ill, the homeless, the chemical-dependent."

the mentally ill, the homeless, the alcohol- and chemical-dependent. We don't have programs for these people before they get into the system, and we certainly don't have programs for them afterwards. We cannot afford to spend billions of dollars on further construction. A major portion of people come out not prepared to be productive citizens, and they end up going back to prison. It's a very costly human recycling system."

San Quentin has been earmarked as the site for an expanded reception center, a clearinghouse where new inmates are held pending permanent assignment within the system. The expansion will give the prison 2650 new beds, increasing its capacity by about 50 percent.

When notified of the plan, Marin county officials recognized an opportunity to make a sweetheart deal with the state. In exchange for local support of the prison expansion, Marin asked for state funding to build an honor farm on San Quentin property. Eager to avert the kind of local flak that is keeping two L.A.- area prisons stalled indefinitely, the state agreed to pay 75 percent of the county's construction costs.

A bill whisked through the Senate to finance the project through the sale of state revenue bonds, which do not require a public vote. Some opposition was encountered in the Assembly, where leaders such as John Burton (D-San Francisco) insisted on tying the plan to voter approval. However, after an all-night August 31 session in which Assembly members rammed through a truckload of new legislation before adjourning for the year, the opposition caved and allowed passage of the original bond measure.

The project, known as the "joint use" plan with apparently no pun intended, calls for the simultaneous construction of state and county facilities on 34 acres of San Quentin land. It will increase the number of county honor farm beds from 197, now housed at the existing Silveira Ranch site, to 300.

The county minimum security facility will be fenced off from the prison, with a separate recreation area. Food and fresh laundry will be brought in from the prison, services that local opponents of the project warn will provide channels for drug trafficking between the two lock-ups. Local authorities, however, state that there will be no contact between county and state inmates to create a demand for drugs. Further, none of the county inmates will be on a work furlough program, so opportunities to bring drugs in from the outside will be curtailed.

Opponents would like to see the county buy the Silveira Ranch property and keep the honor farm there, and they question the necessity of increasing the number of beds. At present, 44 medium security beds are reserved at the farm to handle the overflow of pre-trial arrestees the jail is unable to house for lack of space. Another 153 minimum security beds are for sentenced misdemeanants. There is always a list, which sometimes tops 300, of people waiting to get in to serve out their sentences.

The county has established an admirable array of alternatives to free up honor farm beds. In lieu of incarceration, most offenders can opt for work on a cleanup crew, home detention with electronic monitoring or some other diversionary program. In order to qualify, however, the offender must have a job and a place to live. As a result, the honor farm functions largely as a rather expensive shelter for the homeless.

The jail holds 110 medium security beds in dorm-style cells, mostly for pretrial arrestees. Severe overcrowding in the past led to a court-ordered population cap that has been in place since 1985. The county has been trying to build a bigger jail ever since. The latest plan calls for a $30 million building with 198 cells, designed for single occupancy, but which could be doubled up, if necessary.

One-third of the cost will be provided by state funding, provided construction begins by next spring. So as not to forfeit this $10 million prize, county supervisors resolved to push the plan through, despite the fact that voters have twice defeated jail-funding ballot measures. The board has decided to take the remaining $20 million out of existing county coffers, acknowledging that this will inevitably force cuts in other services.

In the face of such dire consequences, it is reasonable to expect that all other avenues would be explored and jail expansion chosen only as a last resort. Retired federal prosecutor Bob Griswold, a member of the Jail Advisory Committee, argues that, on the contrary, the county has been determined to build a new jail despite a series of studies by outside consultants that recommended alternatives. Many of the alternative programs, proven successful in other jurisdictions, have been rejected by the Sheriff's Department on the grounds that they would jeopardize public safety.

At the urging of the Probation Department, one program was established here last December, by which non-English speaking arrestees can be released under the supervision of a representative from Canal Community Alliance. The program allows the release of minor offenders whom judges would otherwise be likely to hold because of a history of failure to appear. By eliminating the language barrier, the community representative safeguards the person's court appearance and reduces the chance of future infractions.

According to Undersheriff Bob Doyle, the county's record for pretrial services is excellent. Out of the 40 some people arrested each day, only three to five stay in jail. "I've spent more time in the last five years keeping people out of jail than putting them in," says Doyle.

Griswold and other critics applaud the progress made by the Sheriff's Department, but believe that the surface of possibilities has just been scratched. Alan Barnett of Marin Advocates for Justice sees plenty of room for improvement in the District Attorney's office, which he blames for holding pre-trialers longer than necessary.

Still another perspective is offered by a county probation officer, who believes the criminal justice system is staggering under the burden of our arbitrary definition of drugs as illegal. "It seems most of my cases have to do with 'statutory' drugs. These people wouldn't have Uzis if drugs were legal. We wouldn't have drive-by shootings. A lot of danger is created by drug laws. You get gangs, you get kids selling drugs. It beats hell out of McDonald's for an afternoon job."

What the critics advocate is the overhaul of an expensive, ineffective and very complex system...or, even more difficult, providing education, job skills, affordable housing, a way out of the cycle of poverty. For the time being, it is infinitely easier to build more walls than to address the real issues. But eventually, we may reach a crisis that forces some kind of change. Perhaps we'll find, as they did in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, that once our big new jail is built, there is no money left in the budget to open it.

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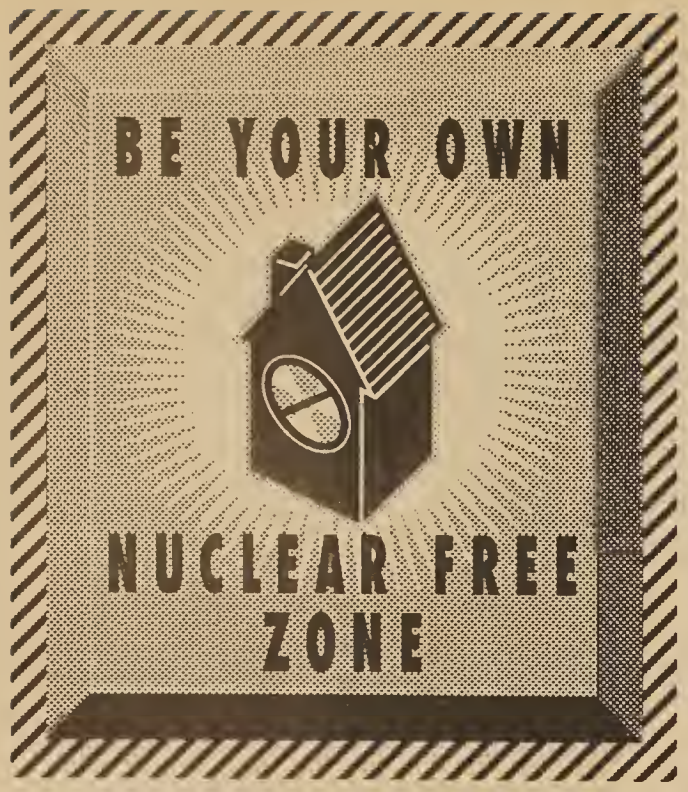

A Guide for the Anti-Nuclear Consumer

Sponsored by the Marin Nuclear Free Zone

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION poisons the environment, endangers our health, weakens our economy and threatens life on our planet. Nuclear weapons makers persist in pressuring federal officials to purchase vast amounts of these deadly products, and with heavy lobbying and large campaign contributions they succeed. Let's transform our resentment about this into effective action by voting with our dollars. Buy consumer products and services only from companies that do not make nuclear weapons systems.

Listed below are companies which are not involved in the production of nuclear weapons systems. Please purchase from these firms. On the following page are the names of companies which have been nuclear weapons systems contractors. Please do not purchase their products and please also call their 800 numbers to tell them of your decision. Acting together we can make a difference.

These products are made by companies that DO NOT MAKE nuclear weapons.

ANSWERING MACHINES AND TELEPHONES
- Cobra
- Code-A-Phone
- Panasonic
- Phonemate
- Radio Shack
- Soundesign

AUTOMOBILES
- Ford
- All foreign makes

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- Bausch & Lomb
- Bushnell
- Leitz
- Asahi
- Minolta
- Tasco

BLENDERS, MIXERS AND FOOD PROCESSORS
- Conair
- Hamilton Beach
- Kithchenaid
- Oster
- Mixmaster
- Sunbeam

CHAINSAWS
- McCulloch
- Poulan Pro

COFFEEMAKERS
- Braun
- Farberware
- Hamilton Beach
- Krups
- Melitta
- Norelco
- Proctor Silex

COMPUTERS
- Apple
- AST
- Atari
- Epson
- Compaq
- Hyundai
- Intel
- NEC
- Panasonic
- Samsung
- Tandy
- Tangent
- TriStar

DISHWASHERS
- Frigidaire
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- Jenn Air
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- Maytag
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- Samsung
- Waste King
- Whirlpool
- White (WCI)

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- Stanley
- Makita
- Milwaukee Electric
- Ryobi

POTS AND PANS
- Corning
- Farberware
- Foley
- Layson
- Magnalite
- Mirro
- Revere-Ware
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- Maytag
- Norge
- Whirlpool
- White (WCI)

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- Hitachi
- JVC
- Philco
- Quasor
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- Toshiba
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- Brothers
- Canon
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- Panasonic
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- Sharp
- Smith-Corona
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- Arm
- Decade
- Deluxe
- Electrolux
- Eureka
- Hoover
- Jet Flow
- Panasonic
- Regina
- Whirlpool

WASHERS AND DRYERS
- Admiral
- Frigidaire
- Gibson
- Kelvinator
- Kitchenaid
- Magic Chef
- Maytag
- Norge
- Thermador
- Whirlpool
- White (WCI)

DO NOT BUY

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Parent company of Advonced Technology, a nucleor weapons systems contractor.

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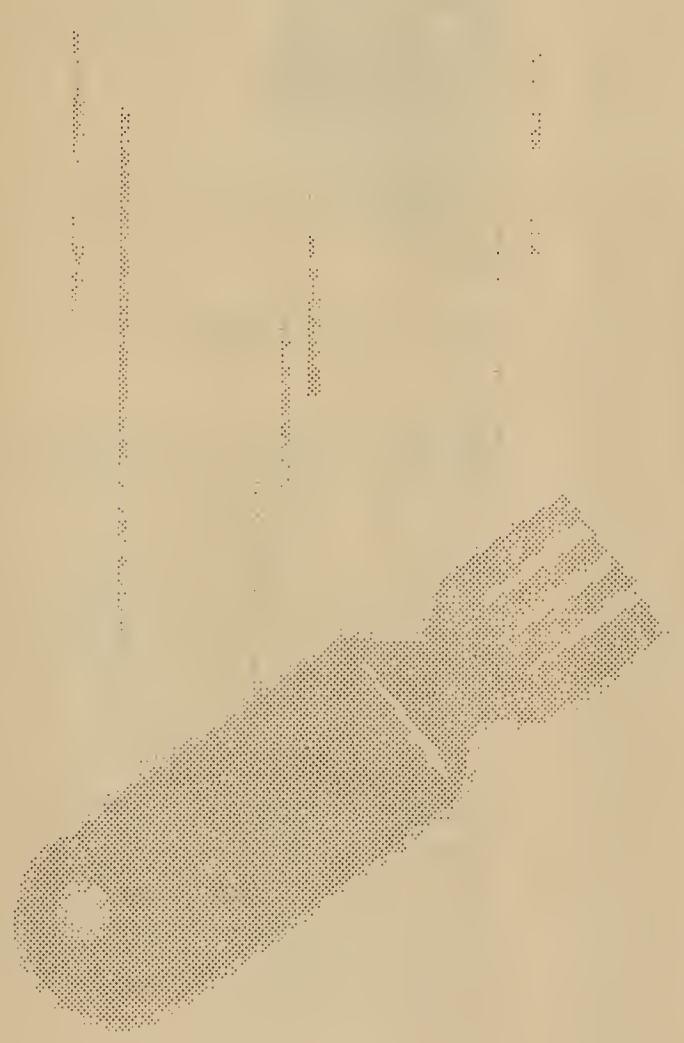
Subsidiary of Dynomics Corporation, a nuclear weapons systems contractor.



THESE PURCHASING SUGGESTIONS are based upon Nuclear Free America's most recent list of nuclear weapons systems contractors (1988), cross-referenced with the 1990 edition of Corporate Affiliations. We present this information with the goal of promoting individual empowerment through education and seek to influence public policy with the ultimate aim of ending the worldwide production of nuclear weapons. The following statement is included on the advice of legal counsel: The Marin Nuclear Free Zone Coalition makes no representations, express or implied, that the information contained herein, based as it is upon information obtained from independent sources not affiliated with the Marin Nuclear Free Zone Coalition, is accurate. To confirm whether any contractor listed herein is, in fact, currently conducting nuclear weapons work, contact the contractor.

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NUCLEAR FREE ZONE
MARIN COUNTY

Greens Launch Third Party

by Daniel Solnit

On February 4th of this year Green activists met in Sacramento to form a statewide Green Party. This small event went largely unreported, yet it holds the potential to transform the entire political landscape of California politics.

To obtain official ballot status, Greens must register 80,000 voters by May 1992. This represents about one percent of those who voted in the last election. To become a real political force, they will need many more; party organizers have set a target of one million registered Green voters by the end of 1991.

While they may not reach this ambitious goal, it seems likely that they will soon become a significant force in state elections. The handful of registration tables set up on Earth Day were met with overwhelming enthusiasm. People are eager for an alternative to the present system, which author Noam Chomsky has characterized as "one party with two right wings." Humboldt Green Gerry Gray reported that "almost none of those registering asked about the Party's platform or goals. I think green values already have a strong positive identity in the public's awareness."

"NEITHER RIGHT NOR LEFT, BUT IN FRONT!"
- European Green Slogan

The prospect of a viable alternative is attractive to many of those who are disenchanted with the Democrats. Party spokesperson Danny Moses of Moss Beach explains: "This is not an effort you have to sell to people; they have been waiting for it. [Greens] are suggesting that we do not have to be eternally disappointed."

In many U.S. elections, over two-thirds of all eligible voters don't vote. Greens view many non-voters as people who feel that they're not being given a real choice, that the present system is too corrupt, or that their vote doesn't count. The Green Party has targeted non-voters as a large part of its constituency. Kathy Brooks of Santa Cruz Greens: "We're dealing with social justice issues that the Democratic Party has ignored: violence, unemployment, homelessness - so that those most affected by these issues will have a voice in the political process. Disenfranchised people will vote if they have something to vote for."

"IF THE SOVIETS CAN RISK A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM, WHY NOT U.S.?"
- Green Party bumper sticker

Asked about the risk of taking voters away from Democratic candidates - and possibly putting Republicans into office - Greens point out that high-profile third party candidates increase public interest and voter turnout, which often benefits Democrats. Such candidacies can also force their opponents to move beyond rhetoric and media hype to assume more responsive positions on key issues such as reproductive rights or disarmament. Given the nervous poll-watching of most politicians, the threat of losing votes to a third candidate can often create a sudden sense of accountability to voters where other means have failed. For the Greens, the goal is not gaining power, but changing policy; it doesn't matter who legislates

the changes as long as they happen. Kathy Brooks: "We can 'green' the Democratic Party, or we can work around it; what is important is educating the voters. Even progressive politicians won't move unless the people push them."

Perhaps most importantly, a Green presence in electoral politics could break open the narrow constraints on public policy debate - constraints that effectively limit public perception of what is reasonable or possible. As long as the media present us with the contrived spectacle of 'liberals' and 'conservatives' arguing over whether to increase military spending by two percent or five percent, then the suggestion of a serious cut of fifty to seventy percent seems unthinkable. Greens want to make these options thinkable again, to challenge the hidden assumptions in such narrowly defined questions. Their goal is to move us from asking "should we allow offshore drilling, or launch a bloody war in the Middle East?" to asking instead "how can we reduce our use of fossil fuels?"...to move beyond the "war" on drugs, which targets the poor and minority communities, to healing the causes: economic injustice, racism, alienation, despair, and the greed of those who profit by it.

At a recent statewide Greens conference, David Brower reminded those present that visionary ideas have the power to move people to action. He is among those advocating a "Green Cross" (now retitled "Green Circle"), an international organization dedicated to environmental restoration, rescuing the planet rather than people. As one Green put it, "Forget merely cutting the defense budget. Let's convert the entire military system - people, equipment, vehicles, the works - into an environmental army!"

Though established in Europe since 1979, the Green movement is relatively new in the U.S., having taken root in California in 1985. At present there are about two dozen established local groups, and an equal number being formed. The movement is small; the core of committed organizers probably numbers less than a thousand statewide. For a group of this size to sustain a major party, it must build coalitions with other interest groups, political organizations, and ethnic communities.

Alliance-building is the biggest challenge now facing the Party. Greens are predominantly white and middle-class, a result of their mostly environ-

TO REGISTER GREEN:

Fill out a voter registration card, available at any post office, library, or city hall, or call the state toll-free line: 1-800- 345-VOTE. Under "political party", check "other" and write in GREEN.

Voters who register Green may still vote for any candidate in a general election (such as the upcoming November races), and in any other ballot question except party primaries. Since most local races and all initiative and bond measures are non- partisan, party affiliation affects very few votes. Those who wish to vote in Democratic or Republican primaries (such as next June's) may change their registration to that party at least 30 days prior to the election, and re-register Green afterwards.

The Green Party needs 80,000 registered voters by early 1992 in order to qualify for official ballot status. Local party organizers plan to register several thousand Green voters in Marin. If you can help, call Green Party/Marin at 45-EARTH or come to the introductory meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Homestead Valley Community Center, 315 Montford, Mill Valley.

mentalist membership base. Although this problem is generally recognized, outreach to other groups has been tentative. Danny Moses emphasizes that the party must be fully multi-racial and multi-ethnic from the beginning to legitimately represent California, where people of color will outnumber whites within the next generation. "We cannot create an organization with structures and assumptions comfortable to whites, and then expect people of color to join us after the fact," said Moses.

Can the Green Party repeat the alliance-building and new voter registration successes of the Rainbow Coalition, or will it become another marginal third party such as the Peace and Freedom Party or the Citizen's Party? The answer depends on an even more fundamental question challenging the Greens: how can a grass-roots movement enter state politics without selling out or losing its local perspective? While Greens are actively building on the groundswell of public interest in the party (and in anything 'green'), they are also working to prevent the crisis that arose in West Germany's Greens.

Building on several years of local activism, German Greens astonished the world (and themselves) when they swept into the German Parliament in 1983, winning 37 seats. This victory inspired similar Green Party triumphs throughout Europe;Greens hold 10 to 15 percent of the seats in most European parliaments. However, this rapid rise to power led to a fierce debate between those who favored compromise with the ruling party, giving up some issues in order to win legislation on others, and those who were fundamentally opposed to any compromise with the government on key issues such as nuclear disarmament.

Principals or pragmatism? This is an old debate in progressive circles, and one which confronts the Green movement as a whole, regardless of the success of the Green Party. A recent Supreme Court ruling declared that third parties do not have to follow the Democratic or Republican model in their internal structure, thus opening the way for a possible solution. Greens are designing a party structure which incorporates their values of grassroots democracy and consensus decision-making, guaranteeing that the party is run openly by the membership, not by a handful of power-brokers in the proverbial "smoke-filled rooms."

Green Party strategy reaches beyond running and electing candidates to building a broad, grassroots base of support. Although they want Green candidates in office, Greens see elections not as a win or lose proposition, but as an opportunity to broaden public debate, to pressure other candidates to shift their positions on issues, and to inform and involve the vast majority of voters who currently feel left out of the political process. Greens lack the financial resources to run traditional media campaigns. Their success hinges on their ability to reach people at the community level. Reflecting on the success of the Forests Forever initiative drive, which qualified for November's ballot in record time, Nevada City Green Kent Smith envisions a "permanent, powerful 'Green Machine' capable of putting any law it wants to a direct vote of the people."

If the Green Party can enlist just ten percent of those discouraged non-voters, it will carry a million votes - enough to determine the outcome of state, and probably national, elections. Add to that number a portion of the state's women, minorities, youth, elders, poor, and the membership of labor, peace, environmental, and community organizations, and the Greens could become the major party in California. We just may be witnessing the beginnings of a social change to rival those in Eastern Europe.

Marin Greens Update

Sponsored by Marin Greens

The Fall Education Series

The Education Action Group of the Marin Greens kicked off its Fall Greentalk series with an evening with Huey Johnson discussing Green politics and resource renewal into the next century. Johnson declared that the environmental movement has won, given the vast public support for a clean environment, and that it is time to get on with the work of creating a better global environmental network.

On October 29, the Greentalk will be a forum on the Transit tax. In November, Marin County voters will be asked to approve a measure that will raise Marin County's sales tax by one cent and provide funds for transportation improvements. These improvements include constructing a light rail starter line from Larkspur Landing to Novato, completing the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes from San Rafael through Novato, and providing money to local jurisdictions. On October 29, the Marin Greens will sponsor a forum on this issue in Terra Linda (see Calendar).

November 13 Greentalks will continue with 'The War on Drugs' from a Greens perspective. We are assembling a panel of experts on civil liberties and drug testing, drug abuse prevention, and the media manipulation of the issue for a controversial discussion on what many believe to be America's number one problem.

In December we will take a holiday break and then begin the Greentalks again in January. We are currently working on an evening of politics and spirituality with Ram Dass and other guests. Join our membership and you will be kept informed.

Green Calendar

OCTOBER

24 WED **Green Party Meeting** 7:30. Call 45-EARTH

20 SAT **"Green Party" Rock & Roll Band** 9:00 pm Cafe Nuvo, San Anselmo.

29 MON **GREENTALK.** A forum on the Transportation tax, 7:30. Speakers from various organizations. Location: Hollis Hall, Board of Education Building, 1111 Las Gallinas Ave., Terra Linda.

NOVEMBER

15 THU **Green Potluck / Video Night,** 7:00 Call: 45-EARTH, or 454-5042 for location.

13 TUE **GREENTALK:** "The War on Drugs" 7:30 pm. A panel of experts discuss the most controversial problem in America. San Rafael Improvement Club, 5th & H St, San Rafael.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Call the new Marin Greens hotline and keep informed.

45-EARTH

If you care...

Act GREEN

- Find out more about the Marin Greens.
- Support our efforts with a contribution and/or help with volunteer work.

Action & Organizing

- ❑ Education/Outreach
- ❑ Green Party
- ❑ Eco-Action
- ❑ Press & Publicity
- ❑ Newsletter
- ❑ Tabling
- ❑ Membership

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Subscribing members receive our mailings, and may participate in activities and projects. You can become an active member by attending meetings and working on Green projects/action groups. Active membership will not be denied because of inability to pay.

Please return form or contact us at:

Marin Greens
P.O. Box 894
Fairfax, CA 94930

A New Frontier for Teens

There is a new army of peacemakers being trained out of a small office in Mill Valley. Creating Our Future (COF) is a collection of young people who have decided to take an active role in their destiny. Living under the shadow of both the nuclear and the environmental threat, these high school students are coming of age in one of the most frightening eras of human history. Yet at the same time, the opportunity for something new to break through has never been greater. These kids truly see the future in their hands and are training others to feel that same power.

COF is unique in many ways both in structure and in approach. It teaches practical skills while addressing personal needs. It focuses on process as well as content, giving instruction in the art of good meetings and honest communication. And, as of the beginning of last summer, COF is run by, as well as for, teens. A recent mutual decision by the adults and the teens handed the reins of management over to the kids and put the adults in an advisory capacity.

Creating Our Future began in 1987 with a workshop inviting high school students and recent graduates to come together to work on peace and environmental issues. Laura Jean Kerr was a first year college student at the time and was intrigued. A (not so) straight A student, she had felt unfulfilled with her education up until that time. "Nothing I was taught in school really stuck with me or struck me intensely enough to say: Ah-ha! Now that really means something to me," she said.

That weekend workshop changed that. "I found a supportive, open atmosphere that helped me to discover myself as I discovered how I could help the world." From this core group of teens, an organization has emerged to repeat that workshop 40 to 50 times and reach over 5000 high school students across the country. From these an estimated 3000 projects or groups have been initiated by the participants. Workshops range from general activism to specific issues such as the rainforest.

The workshops are a combination seminar on the state of the world, training session for organizational skills and rap group for teens. They learn consensus, meeting facilitation, how to start a project. But they are also taught communication techniques, especially effective listening. They learn these skills by expressing their fears about living in such dangerous times. They find out that they are not alone, that others are plagued with the same thoughts and they find a strength of community within that.

Explains Kerr, "Workshops are a time for community building and group bonding. People share, listen, eat, sleep, cook, clean up, work, play, dance, sing and create together for two or three days, opening themselves up to each other and to their own hearts. The special atmosphere is created by each person's intent. People come to workshops because they care about what's happening in the world. Having this kind of common ground helps people more easily learn to care for and respect each other and themselves."

Within a group process, kids are encouraged to open up to one another and share deeper feelings. They have support groups in which smaller numbers talk about more deeply personal issues in their lives. This usually begins with the facilitator breaking the ice. Once these skills become familiar, then even in regular meetings there are "check-ins" which give each person some air time before delving into the business. Teens find many common bonds not only in the greater questions that brought them to the workshop, but in the mud-

dling world of any adolescent confused and frustrated by parents, peers, love, school and money.

The gratification is in finding that they are not alone. Kyra Valens, a recent high school graduate, is a staff member of COF. "I never knew there were so many other kids like this who really cared," she said. "It is so empowering. It gives you the hope that we can really do something."

Watching the workshops grow, Valens has had some of her own stereotypes smashed. At their third annual summer camp, she was surprised to see how many of the teens would fit into the "normal" teen category, those who would seem more at ease at a football game than at a political meeting. It told her that more young people are getting concerned and that their numbers are growing.

Process aside, these kids get down to the business of building activism. Kerr suggests that even though teens seem to be denied access to political power, there is much that they can do. "Even though they can't vote, they can educate those who do, as well as every one else in their schools and communities. Even if teenagers can't run for public office, anyone can write to companies and congresspeople, to whom one letter may represent the opinions of 100 to 10,000 people who didn't bother to correspond. And," she says slyly, "as we all know, teenagers are notoriously able to spend money, rendering consumer education and boycott strategies very effective."

COF has also produced three manuals for teens: "How to Organize a Student Action Group," "How to Organize a Rainforest Action Group" and "An Organizing Manual for Earth Day, 1990 and Beyond."

COF's combination of skill building with personal discovery introduces a new perspective for education. It puts an equal emphasis on the problems "out there" and the problems inside, the former often distorted in the public school system, and the latter utterly ignored. When given honest answers and a forum for group discussion, kids begin to formulate their own sense of power and direction. The skills that they learn then have meaning and purpose.

The board of directors in now dominated by teens, but they maintain an all adult advisory board which is made up of some formidable people. Familiar names like Ram Dass, Ben Cohen of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, Patricia Ellsberg, Joanna Macy, author John Robbins, Grateful Dead guru Jerry Garcia, Pete Seeger, and Peter Bahouth, the executive director of Greenpeace, indicate the caliber of support available.

Sat Santokh, a lifelong activist, was the initiator of the project. He now works part-time in an advisory position. With the kids at the helm, the group manages a mailing list of about 8000 names from around the world and an organization growing faster than expected. They are launching a Bay Area Outreach Campaign to form an active base community to support this world-wide network. A group of high school students and recent graduates will be touring Bay Area schools and communities beginning in January, following up with workshops in each community to assist students in organizing and becoming more actively involved. Volunteer and internship networks are also being organized.

Kerr, now a senior at USCS, is grateful for the experiences she gained as an active participant in COF. "The office management work I did during a six month field study last year taught me publicity and public relations, facilitation skills, communication and listening skills, balance and centering. All of this has been a wonderfully useful foundation for me as I stride into the work world and research my thesis. Staying in contact with Creating Our Future provides a constant reminder to me that people can accomplish whatever they put their minds and hearts into, and no one need every stop learning and growing."
Creating Our Future is located at 398 North Ferndale, Mill Valley, 94941. Phone 381-6744.

Marketplace/Exchange

These businesses offer socially responsible products or services. They are local people serving their community in an ethical and honest way. We urge you to use this directory for all of your needs. If you know of a business that should be included in this directory please call Options at 485-5329.

GIFT SHOPS

Folkways East
63 Bolinas, Fairfax
453-1209
Tues-Sat. 10:30-6
Traditional arts & crafts of Asia at affordable prices

The Earth Store
274 Northgate One, San Rafael
(near Safeway) 472-5475
Mon-Fri 10-8; Sate 10-6; Sun 11-5
Environmentally sensitive products and gifts.
"Let's all help save the earth"

A Shop for All Seasons
552 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo
454-6018
M-F 10-5:30; Sat 10-5; Sun 11-3
Party supplies, fantasy porcelain dolls, healthy children's books and toys.

Culture Shock
7 Bolinas Road, Fairfax
456-8138
Sun-Weds 11-5; Thurs-Sat 11-6
International imports & curiosities.
Clothing, jewelry & artifacts

Sawtooth Quilt Shop
1560 Fourth St., San Rafael
Fourth St. between E & F Streets
453-1711
Mon-Sat 10-5:30
100% cotton fabrics * classes * quilt restoration

HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

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459-3330 by appt. open wkends and eves.
Achieve comfort again with quality Chiropractic care. Self care and movement re-education. Treatment tailored to your specific needs and goals. Massage & adjustment $50.

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San Anselmo Chiropractic; Neil Kraus, D.C.
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456-3435
M-F 8:30-12:30; 2:30-6:30; Sat 9:30-11:30
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Community Chiropractic Michael DeFino, D.C.
130 Greenfield Ave., San Anselmo
456-3435
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Balancing structural biochemical and emotional aspects of health; Food, chemical, and environmental sensitivities, nutritional counseling.

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Allergies, migraines, colds & flu? Get well now. We test on-site for radon, pesticides, formaldehyde, asbestos, electromagnetic radiation. Home or office. Do-it-yourself kits available.

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24 hour helpline. Outpatient and residential treatment for adults & families with alcohol or drug problems. Inpatient psychiatric services for adults, adolescents, and children. Free consultations.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

The Water Store
184 Bon Air Shopping Center, Greenbrae
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M-Th 10-7; F/Sat 10-5
Water Conservation & Purification systems for the home & office. Bottles, crocks, stands, carbonators, dispensers & other water related products.

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House paints, energy efficient lighting, computer radiation, safety shields, home environmental test kits, non-toxic products and more!

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Marin Conservation League
35 Mitchell Blvd., Suite 11, San Rafael, CA 94903
415-472-6170
M-F 8:30-5
The League's members are the grassroots that keep Marin green. Marin's premier environmental group needs you. Join us, now.

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Complete line of organic fertilizers, composts, worms, seeds...
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Artist's Proof Bookstore
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901 "C: St., San Rafael
Downtown San Rafael 7 blocks from 101 at 3rd & C
453-9197
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ART

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Tues-Sat 10-5; Sun Noon-5
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Off Miracle Mile near Shell station
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454-2428
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Wkends, holidays 8:30-Midnight
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454-4530
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Sat 8am-midnight; Sun 8am-11pm
Live music Weds-Sun. Sunday Brunch on the deck. Sandwiches, sumptuous soups, sweets, fine espresso drinks

VIDEO

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Have a video party with fresh take & bake pizza with your favorite movie.
Double Rainbow ice cream.

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454-4932
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Professional travel services
Leisure and Corporate Travel

BUSINESS SERVICES

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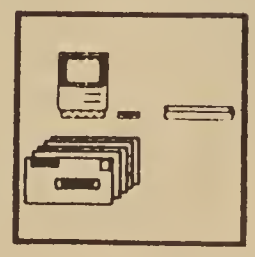
Quality, professional bookkeeping services including payroll, cash flow management, job costing, payables and receivables.



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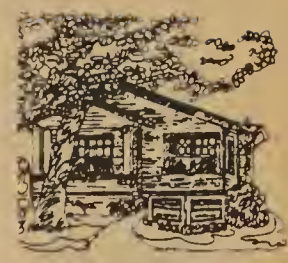

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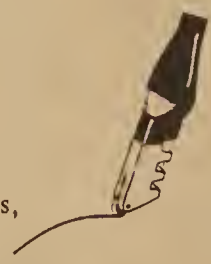

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RESOURCE DIRECTORY

ANIMAL

Coalition For Cruelty Free Marin
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Contact: 925-1311

In Defense of Animals
816 West Francisco Blvd., San Rafael 94901
Contact: 453-9984

Marine Humane Society
171 Bel Marin Keys, Novato 94947
Contact: 883-3522

ARTS

Falkirk Cultural Center
1408 Mission Ave., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Carol Adney 485-3328

Global Artists in Action
656 Throckmorton, Mill Valley 94941
Contact: Mary Landsman 383-5117

Headlands Center For The Arts
944 Fort Barry, Sausalito 94965
Contact: Patricia Quill 331-2787

Headlands Institute
Golden Gate National Rec. Area, Sausalito 94965
Contact: 332-5771

EDUCATIONAL

Footloose Forays
P.O. Box 1179, Point Reyes Station 94956
Contact: Michael Ellis 663-9206

Marin Discoveries
11 First St., Corte Madera 94925
Contact: Jim Stills 927-0410

Marin Education Foundation
1010 B St. suite #300, San Rafael 94901
Contact: 459-4240

Media Tree
80 Lomita Dr. Suite 15, Mill Valley 94941
Contact: Carol Adney 383-6903

Science Discovery Workshop
P.O. Box 638, Woodacre 94973
Contact: Georde Raddue 331-2955

Slide Ranch
2025 Shoreline Highway, Muir Beach 94965
Contact: 381-6155

Tamalpa Institute
P.O. Box 794, Kentfield, 94914
Contact: Anna Halperin 461-9479

Terwilliger Nature Center
50 El Camino Dr., Corte Madera 94925
Contact: Cynda Vyas 927-1670

ENVIRONMENT

Audubon Canyon Ranch
4900 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach 94970
Contact: Skip Schwartz 868-9244

Bay Institute
10 Liberty Ship Way #120, Sausalito 94 94965
Contact: 331-2303

California Marine Mammal Center
Marin Headlands, Ft. Cronkhite 94965
Contact: Peigin Barrett 561-7284

California Native Plant Society
1 Harrison Ave., Sausalito 94965
Contact: Fraser Muirhead

Coastwalk
57 Bridle Path Lane, Novato 94945
Contact: Walt Creber 898-1975

Dolphin Network
524 San Anselmo Ave. #218, San Anselmo, 94960
Contact: Ed Ellesworth 454-7964

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
P.O. Box 609, Pt. Reyes 94956
Contact: William Barrett 663-9312

Environmental Forum of Marin
P.O. Box 74, Larkspur, 94939
Contact: Barbara Perlman-Whyman 461-9321

Environmental Restoration Directory
1713c Martin Luther King Jr Wy, Berkeley 94709
Contact: 843-2645

Friends of the Esteros
Box 184, Tomales 94971

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
Contact: Allen Fish 331-0730

Green Century Project
Building 1055 Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito 94965
Contact: Huey Johnson

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
Fort Mason, San Francisco
Contact: Miles Croom 556-3509

Marin Agricultural Land Trust
P.O. Box 809, Pt. Reyes 94956
Contact: Robert Berner 663-1158

Marin Audubon Soceity
P.O. Box 599, Mill Valley, 94942
Contact: Barbara Salzman 472-4140

Marin Conservation League
35 Mitchell Blvd Suite 11, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Kay Slagle, Karin Urqhart 472-6170

Marin County Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 340, Pt. Reyes Sta. 94956
Contact: 663-1231

Marin Greens
P.O. Box 894, Fairfax 94930
Contact: Daniel Solnit 454-5042

Marin Rainforest Action Group
20 Montevideo Way, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Ann Maurer 459-1986

Marin Recycling & Resource Recovery Center
535 Jacoby St, San Rafael 94901
Contact: 453-1404

Marin Wildlife Center
P.O. Box 957, San Rafael 94915
Contact: Jo Tomlinson 454-6961

Mow Our Weeds (MOW!)
P.O. Box 334, Pt. Reyes Stn 94956
Contact: Donna Sheehan 663-8483

Off Oil Network (Sierra Club)
2448 Watson Ct., Palo Alto 94303
Contact: Jeanne or Bill 326-5684

Pacific Energy & Resource Center
Ft Cronkhite Bldg 1055, Sausalito 94965
Contact: Armin Rosencranz 332-8200

Point Reyes Bird Observatory
4990 Shoreline Hwy, Stinson Beach 94970
Contact: Bill Richardson 868-1221

Point Reyes National Seashore
National Park Service, Point Reyes 94956
Contact: 663-1092

Regeneration West
P.O. Box 493, San Anselmo 94960

Resource Renewal Institute
Bldg 1055 Ft. Cronkhite, Sausalito 94965
Contact: Huey Johnson 332-8082

Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon 94920
Contact: Beth Heining 388-2524

Ring Mountain Preserve
3152 Paradise Dr. #101, Tiburon 94920
Contact: 435-6465

Save Horse Hill
P.O. Box 621, Mill Valley 94942
Contact: Janis Bosenko 388-0961

Sierra Club
222 Crest Rd, Novato 94945
Contact: Gail Wilhelm 453-8636

West Marin Alliance
P.O. Box 670, Pt Reyes Station 94956

West Marin Paths
Box 844, Point Reyes Station 94956
Contact: Ken Fox 663-1467

Wildlife Center
P.O. Box 957, San Rafael 94915
Contact: 456-7283

FUNDING

Marin Community Foundation
1100 Larkspur Lndg Crlc #180, Larkspur 94939
Contact: Sallyanne Wilson 461-3333

HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International
P.O. Box 200, Albion Ct, Novato 94947
Contact: Jeffrey Zankel 898-7752

Marin Human Rights Commission
Room 423 Civic Center, San Rafael 94903
Contact: 499-6192

PEACE

20/20 Vision
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Martha Olsen

Beyond War
71 Mt. Lassen Dr. #d259, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Louise Arndt 479-5100

Central American Network
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Laura Hall 459-5676

Creating out Future
398 N. Ferndale, Mill Valley 94941
Contact: 381-6744

Educators For Social Responsibility
18 Seminole Ave., Corte Madera 94925

Friends Committee on Legislation
926 J Street #707, Sacramento 95814
Contact: (916)4433734

Marin Center for Peace and Justice
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: John Cook 459-5676

Marin Interfaith Task Force
25 Buena Vista, Mill Valley 94941
Contact: Suzanne Bristol 454-0818

Marin Sane Freeze
72 Kensington Rd., San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Linda Eliad & Dian Allen 459-1530

Marin/Condega Sister City
1024 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960

Mill Valley Sister City Program
57 Lee St, Mill Valley 94941
Contact: Elly Mitchell 383-5776

Peace Child Marin
P.O. Box 27, San Rafael 94915

PERSONAL

Green Gulch
Zen Center, Star Route #1, Sausalito 94965
Contact: Michael Sawyer 383-3134

Institute Of Noetic Science
475 Gate 5 Rd. #300, Sausalito 94965
Contact: Nola Lewis, Willis Harman 331-5650

Living/Dying Project
P.O. Box 357, Fairfax 94930
Contact: Karen Dega 387-5892

Marin Suicide Prevention Center
P.O. Box 2749, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Jacqueline Spielberg 454-4566

HUMAN NEEDS

Canal Community Alliance
91 Larkspur St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: 454-2640

Community Action Marin
408 4th St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Gail Theller 457-2522

Community Housing Resource Board
430 Mission Ave, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Nancy Kenyon or Paul Smith 457-2390

Ecumenical Association for Housing
P.O. Box 1410, San Rafael 94915
Contact: Mary Murtagh 453-4887

Family Service Agency Of Marin
1005 A St. Suite 307, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Marcia Kupfer 456-3853

Gray Panthers Of Marin
P.O. Box 2874, San Rafael 94912
Contact: Janet Pence 456-9038

Hospice Of Marin
77 Mark Sr #17, San Rafael 94903
Contact: 927-2273

Human Concern Center of Marin
16 Ritter St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Susan Brown 457-8182

Innovative Housing
325 Doherty Dr., Larkspur 94939
Contact: Ann Howell 924-6400

La Familia
1480 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Sleikendro Montenegre 457-4260

Legal Aid Society
30 N. San Pedro #245, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Gary James Wood 492-0230

Marin Abused Women's Services
1717 5th St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Pat Kuta 457-2464

Marin Adult Day Health Service
72 Kensington Rd., San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Kay Warren 459-6120

Marin Area Agency On Aging
Room 257-Civic Center, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Ellen Caulfield 499-7396

Marin Child Abuse Council
828 Mission Ave, San Rafael 94901
Contact: 459-4499

Marin City Multi-Service Center
740 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965
Contact: Tommy Drake 332-7227

Marin Community Food Bank
75 Digital Dr., Novato 94949
Contact: Anne Rogers 883-1302

Marin Concerned Citizens Committee
1024 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Lynn Sinns 456-7805

Marin Housing
830 B St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: 459-5843

Marin Museum Of The American Indian
2200 Novato Blvd., Novato 94947
Contact: Katherine Volz 897-4064

Mediation Services
Room 412 Civic Center, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Jody Anne Becker 499-6191

Ministry Of Light
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Jane Spahr 457-1115

Novato Ecumenical Housing
P.O. Box 428, Novato 94948
Contact: 892-8136

Novato Human Needs
P.O. Drawer R, Novato 94948
Contact: Florrie Torconi 897-4147

Older Adult Services
18 Professional Center Pkwy, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Grace Tomlinson or Ann Sorgen 499-6808

Prison Law Office
2171 Francisco, San Rafael 94901
Contact: 457-9144

Rainbow Coalition
400 Canal, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Dorothy Vesecky 456-3958

YWCA
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Jaimie Wiatrak 456-0782

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